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\$18 m system to boost Kai Tak surveillance

By FANNY WONG

WITH the increasing threat to airport security, the Civil Aviation Department has decided to upgrade security surveillance at Kai Tak Airport both within passenger terminals and on the runway apron.

A new closed circuit television system, estimated to cost more than \$18 million, is proposed for introduction in three phases between this year and 1994.

A more effective system of surveillance of Kai Tak is required because the present labour-intensive system may not be able to cope with future demand in the face of burgeoning passenger traffic.

It is understood the new system can work round-the-clock in any weather.

Improvements will first be seen in such areas as the passenger and cargo aprons, runway promontory throat and multi-user gates of the airport.

This first phase of the project, scheduled to be implemented in the financial year 1989-90, is estimated to cost \$8 million.

Once this is in place, the Airport Police Command and Control Centre can carry out more effective continuous surveillance of suspects and make rapid responses to emergency situations.

The Civil Aviation Department will also be able to obtain up-to-the-minute information from the scene.

The second phase of the

WORK to expand the capacity of Kai Tak Airport at a cost of more than \$900 million will take at least three years to complete, according to the Deputy Secretary for Economic Services, Mr Rafael Hui Si-yan.

A further expansion program which will take up to six years to implement is expected to be authorised by the Government later this year.

Mr Hui said with or without the report of the consultancy study commissioned by the Civil Aviation Department, a package of projects had already been included in the public works program to expand Kai Tak.

"We need some improvements so facilities at Kai Tak can be further stretched until the mid-1990s, if not beyond."

Mr Hui said improve-

ments would include constructing taxiways, parking spaces and new roads. The air traffic control system would also be upgraded.

project, other improvement works which have yet to be included in the public works program are in the pipeline.

Mr Hui expected the whole expansion program for Kai Tak would take about five to six years and involve land acquisition as well as capital works.

Earlier, the Secretary for Economic Services, Mrs Anson Chan, had said once the consultants reached their conclusions on the new airport by the end of this year, work on a replacement for Kai Tak would begin as soon as the phasing of the project and the division of responsibilities and management were worked out.

ty unit with an extensive armoury including sub-machine guns provides the primary security force within the airport terminals and on the runway apron.

Within the passenger terminal a private company contracted by the Civil Aviation Department, Securair International Limited, covers searches of departing passengers.

The Customs and Excise Department provides 260 officers in the passenger examination division, including 120 involved in processing incoming passengers and 105 responsible for escorting luggage.

The police airport securi-