CHAPTER 14

CROSS-BOUNDARY AND EXTERNAL LIAISON
AND ASSISTANCE

Cross-boundary Liaison

14.1 During a nuclear emergency at the GNPS/LNPS, cross-boundary liaison on the accident will be between SB (HKO being the first point of contact, to be taken over by EMSC when it is activated) and PEACO. Details of the information to be exchanged are set out in Chapter 3. The exchange of radiation monitoring results is elaborated in Chapter 4. During an off-site or site emergency, this two-way exchange of information should take place no less than once every six hours. If there are any significant changes, notification of the change should be as soon as possible.

Cross-boundary Assistance

14.2 The provision of cross-boundary assistance will be governed by the bilateral agreements between Hong Kong and Guangdong making reference to the “IAEA Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency”. Requests for assistance from Guangdong will be made in writing or by fax by PEACO to SB and a reply should be given within six hours.

14.3 The nature of cross-boundary assistance which may be requested would vary with the nature of the emergency. The degree of assistance could vary from the provision of individual experts, to a joint operation using specialised emergency personnel, to facilitating the passage of personnel or equipment. Specifically, requests could be made for assistance in the provision of—

(a) fire-fighting resources;
(b) ambulance resources;
(c) emergency personnel or equipment; and
(d) helicopters to transport the above.

14.4 The request would be considered by S for S who would consult the Civil Service Bureau and the Head of Departments from which assistance would be derived, and, if necessary, CESG. If the request is acceded to, the support may be given gratis or on a reimbursement basis. Participation by individuals in the assistance group would be totally voluntary and the relevant Civil Service Regulations be observed.
14.5 S for S will designate one person as the Commander of the Hong Kong assistance group. The assistance will be provided for specified tasks. The Commander will obtain his instructions on performing these tasks from the Guangdong side and may not act at his own discretion during the operation. In the event he cannot accept such instructions, he should consult S for S and the assistance group may be withdrawn. Data or materials obtained by the assistance group must not be sent back to Hong Kong without the written consent of the Guangdong side. EMSC will inform the departments whose assistance is offered, PHQCCC (who will inform the Police Border Liaison Officer (DDC BORDIST)), Director of Immigration and Commissioner of Customs and Excise concerning the assistance group. DDC BORDIST will coordinate special arrangements to facilitate the passage of the group into Guangdong.

14.6 As appropriate, reference may also be drawn to the contingency plan for “Emergency Responses Operations Outside the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” (Chapter 1), especially if assistance to Hong Kong residents on the Mainland is involved.

14.7 Symmetrical conditions apply to the Hong Kong side requesting assistance from the Guangdong authorities.

**Assistance given to Guangdong in Hong Kong**

**(a) Radiation monitoring**

14.8 Under the Guangdong off-site emergency plan, the Guangdong authorities propose to monitor sea contamination in the middle of Mirs Bay and track the course of the radioactive plume using aircraft. Permission for both activities within Hong Kong should be obtained from SB. This would normally be given.

**(b) Medical treatment**

14.9 It is possible that injured, possibly contaminated, Hong Kong residents will be conveyed to Hong Kong for treatment after a nuclear incident at the GNPS/LNPS either across the land boundary or by utilising existing medevac arrangements to the GFS Headquarters. Every effort should be made to minimise delay in the completion of Immigration, Customs or other formalities. If necessary, these could be conducted in hospital. The Chief Executive of HA, the SBDO (or EMSC, if this is operating), DH and HKOMAC should be informed of the imminent arrival of any possibly radiologically contaminated persons seeking treatment (see Chapters 3 and 8).
Assistance from external organisations

14.10 In the event of a major nuclear accident with possible off-site consequences, international organisations such as IAEA, WHO, International Civil Aviation Organisation and others may take actions in accordance with their mandates and the Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations. Among other things, they may assess the situations and give advice to governments and authorities around the world. Concerned bureaux and departments will follow the developments closely and take into account the advice in considering necessary measures in the local circumstances.

14.11 In particular, IAEA is the leading United Nation agency in nuclear matters. During an emergency, it plays an important role in collating and disseminating information and giving authoritative advice. IAEA can also coordinate considerable logistical, analytical and material support from many countries. S for S, in consultation with the key bureaux and departments of the DBCP, will determine what assistance may be required and forward appropriate requests to IAEA through the China Atomic Energy Authority.

14.12 In the event that WHO makes temporary recommendations under Article 15 of the International Health Regulations 2005 regarding response to nuclear accident, the Director of Health will follow closely developments on this front in considering the necessary enactment of subsidiary legislation under Section 9 of the Prevention and Control of Disease Ordinance to support the appropriate actions (Chapter 7).

14.13 In normal times, it is important that relevant bureaux and departments will continue to keep abreast of the programmes and services in nuclear emergency preparedness and response offered by their counterpart international and overseas organizations and developments in the international community.

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