

Brief for the New Governor

Constitutional Development II :

Relationship between the Legislative Council  
and the Executive & the emergence of party politics

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Political parties and organizations

8. The introduction of direct elections to LegCo has hastened the emergence of party politics. A brief description of these groups is at the Annex.

9. UDHK and other liberals see themselves as "the people's representatives" and seek aggressively to challenge the Government whenever it believes it to be popular to do so. This quickly creates conflict with CRC, which reacts strongly to UDHK's disruptive tactics.

10. Both groups are mindful of public perceptions. This has led to much politicking hitherto not experienced in Hong Kong, resulting in :

- (a) a slow down in the despatch of LegCo business e.g. as at end April 1992, 37 bills were passed by LegCo as compared to 46 same time last year (and we are having to adopt a more realistic legislative programme); and
- (b) difficulties in securing the passage of some budget proposals, as appointed and normally moderate LegCo members declined to throw their weight behind them until after much intensive lobbying by the Administration.

LegCo elections in 1995

11. It is too early to say what holds for the next LegCo elections. Despite the poor results overall of the pro-China camp in the 1991 elections, some of their key candidates did secure a very respectable number of votes. They are now actively forming a political party (see Annex to Brief I) with a view to making a comeback in 1995. The CRC is expected to develop themselves into a more cohesive body with a popular base. They have just confirmed publicly their intention to evolve soon into a political party. This is likely to happen during the summer. It remains to be seen whether CRC will enter into any form of partnership with the pro-China camp. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Constitutional Affairs Branch

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Political/Pressure Groups in Hong Kong

GENERAL

1. The first direct elections to the Legislative Council in 1991 has given impetus to the formation of new political groups. Some of these groups are gradually developing into political parties. The most prominent examples are the United Democrats of Hong Kong (UDHK) and the Liberal Democratic Foundation (LDF). Their members had to adhere to strict party platforms when they stood for elections in September 1991. Possibly because of the remarkable results scored by the UDHK in the Legislative Council elections, more of the new political groups are moving towards becoming political parties. The two most notable ones must be the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DABHK) and the Co-operative Resources Centre (CRC).

2. In addition to the formal political groups, there have been a number of political opinion groups which have been in existence for a few years, such as the Meeting Point. Some of these also appear to be moving towards becoming fully fledged political parties before the next

Legislative Council elections in 1995. On the other hand some of the more traditional political groups, such as the Hong Kong Civic Association, have become inactive and less influential in recent years as their position in the community is gradually being taken by the new groups.

### LIBERAL GROUPS

#### A. United Democrats of Hong Kong (UDHK)

Established in 1990, most of the core members of the UDHK are former leaders of various liberal political groups. Its leaders include Mr Martin LEE Chu-ming, Mr YEUNG Sum and Mr Albert HO Chun-yan. The UDHK has been calling for a faster pace of democratic development, a call shared by other liberal political groups. It is by far the largest liberal group in LegCo, capturing 12 of the 18 directly elected seats, with another two of its members returned through the functional constituency elections. The UDHK has advocated that at least half of the seats in the 1995 legislature should be returned through direct election, and that the leaders of the major

political groups in the Legislative Council should be appointed to the Executive Council. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B. Meeting Point (MP)

Established in January 1983, the MP was formerly a political opinion group. Members of this group consist mainly of intellectuals in their thirties or forties. Under the chairmanship of Mr Anthony CHEUNG, a City Polytechnic lecturer, the group has recently announced its intention to develop into a political party. Members of the MP now occupy three seats in the Legislative Council and often vote en bloc with the UDHK councillors in the Legislative Council.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



C. Hong Kong Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood (ADPL)

This group was set up in mid-1986, resulting from the amalgamation of about eight to ten smaller groups. The Association has the most "grass-root" image among the liberal political groups. Its main power base is in west Kowloon. Of late it seems to be spreading its influence into parts of Kwai Tsing. It has only one member serving on the Legislative Council; Mr Frederick Fung Kim-kee.

[REDACTED]

MODERATE GROUPS

A. Co-operative Resources Centre (CRC)

Under the leadership of the former Senior Legislative Councillor, Mr Allen LEE, the Centre comprises 21 Legislative Council members. Its members are either appointed members or representatives of functional constituencies. Although four of its members (Mr Allen LEE, Mr Edward HO, Mrs Rita FAN and Mrs Selina CHOW) are members of the Executive Council, the Centre is trying to build up an independent image, recently taking the lead in attacking government on a number of issues.

Although the proclaimed original purpose of the Centre was to provide a forum for discussion among moderate Legislative Council members, leading members have recently indicated their interest in turning the Centre into a political party with the aim of becoming the majority party in the Legislative Council in 1995. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B. Hong Kong Democratic Foundation (HKDF)

Formed in 1989, the objects of the Foundation are to promote the establishment of a democratic system of government in Hong Kong and generally to further the cause of democracy in the conduct of all public affairs. Under the Chairmanship of Dr Patrick SHIU, members of the Foundation are mostly of a professional or business background. Two of its members, Mr J.D. McGregor and Dr LEONG Che-hung, have been elected through the functional constituency elections into the Legislative Council.

[REDACTED]

## CONSERVATIVE GROUPS

### A. Liberal Democratic Federation

Founded in 1990, the aim of the Federation is to work for Hong Kong's stability and prosperity and the realization of the spirit and provisions of both the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law. Its leading members include Mr HU Fa-kuang and Miss Maria TAM, both former Legislative Councillors and both recently appointed Advisors to the PRC. Miss Tam is also a former member of the Executive Council. The Federation performed poorly in the 1991 Legislative Council direct election with all of its five candidates losing. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### B. Business and Professional Federation of Hong Kong

Under the leadership of Messrs Vincent LO Hong-siu (Advisor to the PRC) and James TIEN Pei-chun, two wealthy businessmen, the objects of the group are to enhance public understanding of the views of the business and professional sectors and to

influence government policies with the aim of maintaining an environment conducive to economic growth. It has funded a number of research projects on economic development in Hong Kong. So far there has been no indication that the group will develop into a political party. There is a certain degree of overlap in the membership between this group and the LDF.

#### PRO-CHINA GROUPS

##### A. New Hong Kong Alliance Ltd

Formed in 1989, the Alliance has a rather conservative and pro-China image. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The group has just amended its constitution to allow the recruitment of more members in order to step up its work as a political group.

B. Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DABHK)

The group is now being formed and is expected to be registered soon. The core members of its preparatory committee comprise prominent left-wing figures, including Mr TAM Yiu-chung (a Legislative Council member of the Labour functional constituency). The aim of the Alliance is to help implement the "one-country, two-systems" concept and to safeguard the interests of the people of Hong Kong. Mr TSANG Yuk-shing, the convenor of the preparatory committee [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] announced that the group has collected more than \$1 million to fund its activities and many of its members are ready to stand for the 1995 elections. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### ISSUE-ORIENTED CONCERN GROUPS

There are still a large number of community groups or concern groups which are politically active either at the district level or on specific community wide issues. However with the emergence of the major political groups described above, the territory-wide political significance of these community groups is gradually being reduced. Some of the more active groups are described below:

- (a) Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions (FTU) - a left-wing labour union formed in 1949. The largest labour union in Hong Kong with a total membership of around 200,000 people. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- (b) Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions - representing the interest of the independent trade unions. The group was formed in 1990. It has been very active on the issue of imported labour.

- (c) Hong Kong Professional Teachers' Union  
- the largest union representing the  
interest of teachers. It used to be  
very active politically taking  
interests in a wider range of social  
issues. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- (d) People's Council on Public Housing -  
the group has adopted a high profile on  
public housing policies. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]