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Alliance group will push for democratic HK

A COORDINATION Alliance for Promotion of Democracy, Freedom, and Human Rights of Hongkong People, which aims to merge over 100 local organisations to prepare for the 1997 issue, will be formed in December, said the chairman of the Association for Democracy of Hongkong Ltd (ADHK), Mr Tsin Sai-nin yesterday.

He said the Alliance will send letters to China, Britain and Taiwan expressing the standpoint and will of Hongkongites.

Asked why Taiwan is involved in the lease issue, Mr Tsin said it is because "the Chinese population in Hongkong and Taiwan share a common past."

"We are both immigrants from the mainland and so our thinking has a lot in common," he explained.

Since October ADHK has sent over 500 letters to different associations in the colony, and, so far, about 20 associations have responded, including the student unions of the two universities and the Hongkong Polytechnic. But no representative of student unions turned up yesterday.

"We hope that the constitution of the Alliance can be worked out among the participating organisations. The administrative committee can be formed subsequently," he said.

Mr Tsin said ADHK conducted their first conference

yesterday because it was a day between Dr Sun Yat-sen's 117th birthday and the beginning of the sixth round Sino-British talks in Beijing."

The evocation of Dr Sun Yat-sen, the father of modern China, was to drive home the national hero's advocacy of human rights during the Nationalist regime.

Mr Tsin, however, denied any conscious alliance with Taiwan or the rightist movement.

"Dr Sun is respected by every Chinese regardless of his ideological outlook and we'd like to blend Dr Sun's teachings with models of democracy in the West to find a workable democratic system in today's or post-1997 Hongkong," he said.

He decried the absence of Hongkong representative in the Beijing's negotiation table as "ridiculous and unfair."

The group also urged the government to see that secondary schools instilled "knowledge and concept of democracy" into children.

Mr Tsin said he had contacted the government regarding the formation of the Alliance.

"I was told that everyone here was entitled to do what one liked if only it didn't violate the law," he said.

Some district board members and chairmen of kaifong associations also attended the meeting yesterday.