

S. L. M. P.

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33 unions back 'rebel' dispensers

By **KENNETH KO**

Thirty-three civil service unions banded together last night and formed an action committee to support the "rebel" dispensers' industrial action.

A working group made up of chairmen from nine staff associations was also created to organise and plan the committee's work.

These latest moves in the civil service crisis came at the end of a three-hour meeting in the Duke of Windsor So-

cial Service Building.

Officials from the 33 staff associations — representing about 40,000 civil servants — unanimously condemned the Civil Service Branch's decision to suspend 26 dispensers who had refused to perform assigned duties.

"The Government has misused Civil Service Regulation 611 in suspending the dispensers," said a spokesman for the action committee, Mr Mok Ka-wing.

He said that representatives at the meeting would go

back to their unions and discuss what action to take to support the suspended dispensers.

They will also discuss the setting up of a "struggle fund."

Among the union chairmen who were elected to the working group were Mr Kwok Yuen-hon of the Chinese Civil Servants' Association, Mr Ho Kwok-wing of the Pharmaceutical Staff Association, Mr Anthony Luk of the Health Inspectors' Association, and Mr Ronald

Chow of the Association of Government Nursing Staff.

Mr Mok, chairman of the Government Supplies Supervisors' Association, said that any other civil service union that wants to join the action committee would be welcome.

Meanwhile, a Government spokesman yesterday repeated that the 26 suspended dispensers had not been working to rule but were simply not performing duties to which they had been assigned.

For example, 15 of them

who had been assigned to the manufacture of drugs were attending dispensaries but were refusing to carry out their work.

"As soon as they are prepared to resume their normal duties, the suspension will be lifted," he added.

Despite the closing of half of the 14 evening clinics as a result of the suspension, a spokesman for the Medical and Health Department said that conditions at the remaining clinics were normal.