

Survey?
Add to file

62pc BACK PATTEN

BY LAURA CHAN

GOVERNOR Chris Patten's proposed political reforms are backed by 62 per cent of Hongkong people - despite their rejection by China - according to a new survey.

And 56.5 per cent believe the Government should press ahead with the reforms over China's objections if need be.

A large percentage of people also believed there had been no "secret deal" between Britain and China over democratic development in Hongkong and the 1995 Legislative Council elections.

The telephone survey, by *The Standard's* sister paper, the Chinese-language *Sing Tao*

Daily News, interviewed 807 people on Monday and Tuesday.

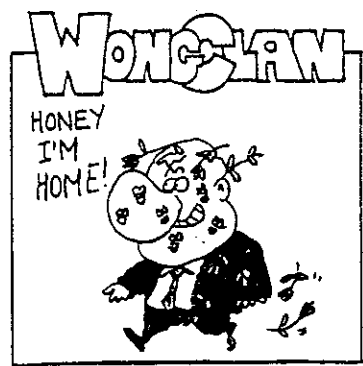
On Governor Chris Patten's reform proposals, 62.2 per cent approved of his package and only 19.5 per cent opposed it.

Asked if Mr Patten should go ahead with his reforms despite China's opposition, 56.5 per cent said "yes" and 29.2 per cent disagreed.

Nearly 32 per cent of those surveyed believed there had been no secret deal between Britain and China in diplomatic letters released last week.

But 40.5 per cent had no opinion and 27.9 per cent said there had been a deal.

On a related aspect, 46 per cent said Mr Patten's proposed reforms did not breach any



agreements or understandings and 25.8 per cent said he had violated certain deals that may have been made.

Opinion was split over whether either government was concerned about the interests of Hongkong people

during discussions in 1990 over democratic development - 48 per cent said China was not concerned (37.8 per cent said China was) and 40 per cent said Britain was not concerned (48.2 per cent said it was).

On 1995 election arrangements, 52.2 per cent said they thought China would not dismantle Mr Patten's reforms after 1997 if he pressed ahead with his proposals. If Mr Patten's proposals were introduced, 67.9 per cent said they would not be scared if China and Britain stopped co-operating before 1997 and more than 50 per cent said they were not worried if China formed a shadow government in Hongkong before 1997.

But 73.1 per cent said Britain

and China should each give some ground and keep talking.

Governor's spokesman Mike Hanson said the poll results were encouraging and he hoped legislators would take note of the findings.

Hongkong University School of Professional and Continuing Education senior lecturer Owen Wong said the survey showed Mr Patten had overwhelming support.

Mr Wong said Hongkong people were not afraid of China's criticisms and threats.

But he believed Mr Patten should amend his proposals on the Election Committee as a compromise measure for China.

HONG KONG STANDARD
6 NOV 1992