

1997 election poll reveals concerns over continuity

NEITHER villain nor victim. That was the verdict when *The Sunday Standard* polled Hongkong people on what they thought of China's threat to sack the Legislative Council and District Boards, and to introduce new elections after the handover in 1997.

► Han Yuk-yuen, 29: It is no good for the government to work separately from China and table part of the proposals to the Legislative Council. I worry that the efforts made by the governments might be wasted.

► Tong Chun-yin, 42: The reason why the Chinese government wants a new election in 1997 is that Chris Patten does not work according to the Basic Law. What I think of the idea of holding new elections in 1997 depends on the format they take. It could be all right if the election can maintain stability and prosperity and fulfil the wishes of Hongkong people.

► Fanny Ng, 27: China's reaction was just what I had expected. The Governor's action in bringing his proposal to the Legislative Council prior to an agreement with China forced the Chinese side to do something in return. Although the election in 1997 might have some adverse influence on Hongkong, it would not be too bad in the end. Beijing knows that the situation in Hongkong will directly affect China's interests.

► Leung Pui-wan, 35: The effect of a new election to be held by the Chinese government will depend on the political atmosphere at the time. It is hard to say how



Fanny Ng



Han Yuk-yuen



Tong Chun-yin



Ng Kwan-lung



Angela Lam



Leung Pui-wan

big the effect will be, but I think the economy of Hongkong might be negatively affected.

► Angela Lam, 23: I'd feel insecure if the new government changed the structure of the local policy body by launching a new election in 1997. That may mean promises made by the former decision makers might not be put into practice.

► Ng Kwan-lung, 28: I think it is not good to have another election. I am afraid the plans of the government might not be smoothly conducted during the transition period if there's no continuity.

INTERVIEWS: ARIES LAU