

Absence of opponents to help Tiananmen motion

By Carmen Cheung

THE passage of today's Democrat-sponsored motion on the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown is expected to be eased by the absence of opposition in the Legislative Council.

Sponsored by Democrat Szeto Wah, the motion is set to pass because some of its likely opponents will be attending today's Preparatory Committee meeting in Beijing.

Five independent legislators who are also Preparatory Committee members have informed the Legco Secretariat they will be absent from today's sitting.

They are David Li Kwok-po, Lee Kai-ming, Paul Cheng Ming-fun, Eric Li Ka-leung and Philip Wong Yu-

hong. Liberal Party legislator Selina Chow Liang Shuk-ye is out of town and will not return until next week.

Eric Li said he believed the motion would be passed after he learnt some legislators would neither speak nor cast their votes.

dependent legislator Margaret Ng and Citizens Party chairwoman Christine Loh Kung-wai.

Mr Szeto's motion, which says that the June 4, 1989, Tiananmen crackdown "should be redressed", is also expected to be backed by three members of the

erick Fung Kin-kee. But he is also a Preparatory Committee member and will not be casting a vote.

It was confirmed yesterday that no government official would respond to Mr Szeto's motion.

"Under the general practice, the government sends officials to answer questions or motions sponsored by legislators only if the issue is related to government business," a spokesman said.

But Mr Szeto said he would not care whether his motion debate was endorsed or not and said he had not lobbied for the support of other legislators.

"What's more, I won't care whether or not government officials will give a response," he said.

"The ADPL will support Mr Szeto's motion as it is also the stance of the ADPL to redress the June 4 crackdown."

Mr Szeto, the Democrat chairman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Movement in China, is believed to be counting on about 27 votes in support of his motion, not only from his Democratic Party but also from the Frontier, in-

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

"The ADPL will support Mr Szeto's motion as it is also the stance of the ADPL to redress the June 4 crackdown," association chairman and Preparatory Committee member Fred-

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