

1,500 ATTEND MEETING TO OPPOSE GOVT MOVE ON SURPLUS TEACHERS

MORE than 1,500 teachers yesterday attended a meeting organised by the Government Schools Non-Graduate Teachers' Union to discuss measures against the Education Department's move to force redundant primary school teachers to retire or find other jobs in the Civil Service, most papers reported prominently today.

The meeting was reported as the front page lead in Tin Tin Yat Po, an inside page lead in Wah Kiu Yat Po, Sing Tao Jih Pao, the Express, Wen Wei Po, the Hong Kong Commercial Daily and Ching Po.

Kung Sheung Daily News, Ming Pao and Ta Kung Pao treated the news as their back

page lead.

In headlines and sub-headlines, several papers said that the Union was planning to take legal action against the Government.

The Union yesterday issued a seven-point declaration opposing the Government's move. The declaration would

be sent to the Governor, the Chief Secretary, the Secretary for Social Services and the Secretary for the Civil Service, the papers reported.

The Union yesterday also passed a resolution to launch a poster campaign shortly.

Last Friday, the Government Schools Non-Graduate Teachers' Union and the students' unions of the three colleges of education issued a statement lashing out at the Education Department's move, according to some papers on Saturday.

Nine papers discussed the problem editorially over the weekend and today.

The Hong Kong Times and Sing Tao Jih Pao described the Government's move as "quite acceptable". They cautioned the teachers against taking any drastic action.

They were joined by Wah Kiu Yat Po and Tin Tin Yat Po in urging the teachers to hold talks with the Government to seek a solution.

Wah Kiu Yat Po felt that teachers' dignity should be protected and hoped that the Government would study the teachers' declaration carefully to acquire a deeper understanding of their situation.

Kung Sheung Daily News sympathised with the teachers and said the Government's announcement had harmed the dignity of teachers.

Together with Ta Kung Pao, it supported the teachers' proposal for changing the ratio between teachers to students.

Both the Hong Kong Daily News and the Hong Kong Commercial Daily agreed that the so-called redundant teachers were created by the Government's incomprehensive education policy.