

## Battling teachers raise \$400,000

The Government Schools Non-graduate Teachers' Union has raised almost \$400,000 to finance a campaign against the Government's decision to force hundreds of teachers to find other jobs or retire.

According to the Chairman of the union, Mr Leung Yim-tong, funds have been pouring in from members and sympathisers.

The fund includes a pledge of \$230,000 from the Joint Secretariat of 13 Educational Bodies.

"We are very pleased with the response and it clearly reflects the sentiments of our 1,800 members," Mr Leung said.

Part of the money will go towards legal expenses, he said.

The teachers voted at a mass meeting earlier this month to engage a lawyer from Britain.

The union has, as a first step, engaged local solicitors to study their case.

● The Secretary for Social

Services, Mr Eric Ho, yesterday told Government non-graduate teachers that their views on the future of Government primary schools had been given full consideration.

Mr Ho was replying to letters from the Government Schools Non-Graduate Teachers' Union to the Governor, the Chief Secretary and other senior officers, requesting negotiations on the plans for surplus primary school teachers.

Both the Board of Education and the Executive Council had considered the union's views in their deliberations on the report of the Special Commission on Certificated Masters, he said.

Mr Ho said the Government had acted in the public interest by taking measures to eliminate mounting costs arising from the retention of surplus teachers.

These measures had taken the interests of the teachers into account.