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## Advisory council on AIDS launched

By MARY ANN BENITEZ

A NEW Advisory Council on AIDS, which takes over the job of an expert committee, was formed yesterday, with members who include a Catholic priest, Legislative Councillors and university doctors.

The council will be chaired by the Director of Health, Dr Lee Shiu-hung, who was also the chairman of the AIDS expert committee set up in 1985.

From just an action group mainly concerned with health education and blood screening, the council's work has been expanded "to enable Hongkong to better cope with the increasing problem of AIDS", a spokesman said.

Hongkong has so far diagnosed 33 AIDS cases and 140 HIV carriers.

Among the council's members are Father Alfred J. Deignan, principal of Wah Yan College, councillors Mr Ho Sai-chu and Mrs Peggy Lam Pei Yu-dja, Dr Margaret Kwan Shuk-wa of the Family Planning Association, Professor Joseph Lee of Chinese University and Professor M. H. Ng of Hongkong University.

Representatives from the Hongkong Medical Association and the Hongkong Council of Social Services have also been appointed.

Government representatives include officials from the Security Branch - who will advise on intravenous drug addicts - the Home Affairs Branch, the Health and Welfare Department, the Education Department and the Director of Information Services.

"The strong representation from both Government departments and non-government organisations not only reflects the administration's commitment to tackle the problem but also ensures community involvement and participation," the spokesman said.

The council will advise the Government on the formation of a comprehensive AIDS program, the content and scope of AIDS prevention and control activities and resource requirements.