

HK STANDARD 22 JAN 1982

## 350 workers protest at 'unreasonable' dismissal

SOME 350 workers of Century Garment Factory and Harvest Textile Factory, who were dismissed by their new receiver yesterday, are staging a sit-in protest at the factory until they get their compensation.

They claimed that they were dismissed "unreasonably" and were totally unprepared for the notices of dismissal.

A representative of the workers, Miss Winnie Chan, who was also the factory general manager, said that on January 11, the bank creditor had informed her boss, Mr Victor Ho, that factory's \$15 million overdraft facility was too high.

Mr Ho immediately flew

to the United States to raise funds and, on Friday, had sent a US\$2 million letter of credit to the bank.

The Century Garment Factory has been established 12 years and employed more than 250 workers. The Harvest Textile Factory was established in 1978 and had 100 workers.

Miss Chan said employees worked overtime almost daily to keep up with overseas orders.

"According to our monthly turnover of \$10 million, and monthly profit of \$1 million, we had enough money for the debts," Miss Chan said.

She said workers had

been denied seven days compensation payment and, instead, would receive only three-and-a-half days pay.

However Miss Chan said the bank creditor had informed workers that there might be no compensation.

"They said they did not have enough money," she said.

Meanwhile, about 100 workers from the subsidiaries of the provisionally liquidated Good Year Estates yesterday petitioned the Umelco for help in their compensation claim.

The workers claimed that they had not received wages and were entitled to more than \$6 million compensation.