

1 million people cannot be wrong

PROFESSOR Yang Chen-ning, as a nuclear physicist and Nobel Prize winner (1957), has spoken out on the Daya Bay issue.

He claimed that the issue was being manipulated by some people for political gain, and stressed that he was neither for, nor against, Daya Bay.

He said that the one million people who willingly signed the petition against the project would have thought twice if they realised that they would have to pay electricity bills that may be twenty times higher if we do not get electricity from a nuclear power plant (no supporting facts given).

The Guangdong Nuclear Investment Company has said it cannot guarantee the price of the power we will get. At most, they have given a guarantee that we will get the lowest rates for

six years.

The Guangdong Government cannot accept the risk, and the project has been passed to the Central Government (SCMP, July 27)

After the initial six years, we could well be paying 50 times the cost of electricity from an oil or coal-fired power station (oil and coal prices have dropped recently) and the cost of building such a plant would be only \$17 billion, compared to \$27 billion for the nuclear power plant. The plant would be under our own control from an economic and political point of view.

Although I respect Professor Yang's achievements in the past, his comments bore no connection to his work and had no relation to any facts.

It would seem that as one individual, his status is being used for political gain and that he has been manipulated far more easily than it can ever be to manipulate one million individuals.

The public in general cannot be assumed to be ignorant and without independence of thought. The fact that they have rejected the project strongly is evidence of that.

If one needs more proof, he needs only to look at the success of Hongkong.

The simplicity of evidence that the human being is fallible and easily manipulated is reason enough not to build a nuclear plant in our region.

I realise the predicament that China is now in, and appreciate the reasons for initial involvement. Official sources said top officials only agreed to undertake the (financial) risk several years ago because of the 1997 jitters in Hongkong.

They wanted to give Hongkong a confidence booster.

They now have to undertake an even greater financial risk because of the falling prices of fossil fuel.

They realise Hongkong people do not want it, and being pressured as they are by the China Light and Power Company, the Hongkong Government and Britain, we can only trust the wisdom of the Chinese Government to do the right thing.

Ying Wai Choy