

3,000 threaten to cut phone lines over 30pc rise

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THREE thousand subscribers at the Taiwohau public housing estate yesterday warned the Telephone Co they will cancel their phones if the 30 per cent increase in rates is enforced.

The warning was handed in to the Umco office yesterday along with a protest against the increase and 3,000 signatures of subscribers at the estate.

The protest, headed in by

four representatives, urged the Government to reconsider approving the increase.

The representatives said the subscribers at Taiwohau had raised banners and posters denouncing the telephone company and the Government.

The protest letter said the signature campaign started several days ago after subscribers decided at a mass meeting that they had to take action to make their feelings known.

Trouble over the proposed increase came from another quarter yesterday when chairman of the Heung Yee Kuk Cheung Yan-lung said: "If the 30 per cent increase is granted the first thing we should do is to dissolve the Consumer Council."

Mr Cheung said the increase is one of the biggest issues in Hongkong for a long time. The Consumer Council has proved that it is unable to do anything about it. "The organization has proved itself useless and meaningless," he said.