

14 Dec 1989

Mr. Wong  
Mr. Lee

## /// Alliance challenges rally damage bill

THE Hongkong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China is disputing a \$500,000 bill for damage during rallies in Victoria Park and Happy Valley.

The alliance said yesterday it would meet Government officials about the demand and called it unfair and excessive.

The Urban Services Department wants the alliance to pay the amount as compensation after rallies sparked by the June 4 massacre in Beijing.

A department spokesman said \$500,000 would compensate for the cost of turfing and replacing plants and services.

He said compensation had been paid before in similar cases.

He said the department had decided as far back as September to ask for compensation.

Mr Wong Ping-wai, of the Urban Council's recreation committee, said that people always had to sign an agreement agreeing to pay damages.

An alliance spokesman, Mr Lee Chuk-yan, said: "Many people have used the venues in the past and I haven't heard of people being required to pay compensation."

"Why should we pay? We are taxpayers and they are public venues."

The alliance still holds more than \$18 million in public donations, gathered during the pro-democracy movement in China during May-June.