

11 March 1988

Animosity between blocs mars polls

THE animosity between the Progressive Hongkong Society and the liberal pressure groups marred Thursday's otherwise uneventful Urban and Regional Council elections.

The rival groups demonstrated their hostile attitude toward each other as they fought for grassroots support in five of the 20 contested constituencies.

Both sides were determined to consolidate their influence at the district levels in preparation for the territory's maiden direct elections to the Legislative Council in 1991.

As vote counting concluded by dawn, the Progressive Hongkong Society — chaired by Executive Councillor Miss Maria Tam Wai-chu — emerged the loser.

Seven members of the society had joined the fray, two of whom — incumbents Mr Pao Ping-wing and Mr Wong Sui-sang — were re-elected unopposed.

Only one of the remaining five who had to face the electorate managed to grab a seat, despite vigorous on-the-spot canvassing by Miss Tam.

Vice-chairman Mr David Yeung Fuk-kwong, leading members Mr Wong Tak-lun, Mr Cheng Chun-ping and Mr Wong Ping-hon were humiliated one after another in four major populous districts — Tsuen Wan, Sau Kei Wan, Shamshuipo West and Tai Po, respectively.

On the other hand, most of the 16 candidates supported by three key liberal pressure groups — the Meeting Point, Hongkong Affairs Society and the Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood — fared well in the polls.

Eleven of them were returned, scoring an overall 70 per cent success rate for the liberal camp. The tally compares favourably with the 43 per cent figure of the Progressive Hongkong Society.

The liberal lobby can also count on two independent incumbents, Mrs Elsie Tu and Mr Lau Kwong-wah, who are not affiliated with any pressure group.

The remaining eight successful candidates were mainly kaifong leaders with a conservative political outlook.

A closer look at the new Urban Council suggests that seven of the 15 elected seats are filled by liberal activists.

The same number of liberals won in the Regional Council race.

The liberal councillors' influence, however, will be significantly diluted if the number of appointed, ex-officio and indirectly elected members in the councils were taken into account.

But only a day after their overall victory, the liberals are already worried about the clouds of uncertainty gathering on the horizon.

Meeting Point vice-chairman, Mr Fred Li Wah-ming, said: "The perfor-

mance of all 16 candidates supported by the liberal groups were very good in general. The few who lost, lost in real tight battles."

He was, however, quick to add that there were many lessons to be learned from the election.

The campaign had made it clear to them that they would have to devise a more effective strategy in future.

"We are facing rivals with increasingly stronger mobilisation power. Among the ranks of our rivals is an alliance of young and upcoming professionals, conservatives, leftists and rural leaders.

"They have adopted the same election strategy, such as district surveys and home visits, as we do. Their candidates are young, well-educated and have close links with the residents," said Mr Li.

Typifying the difficulties they faced was the tight race in Tsuen Wan between Mr Albert Chan Wai-yip of the Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood, and Mr David Yeung Fuk-kwong of Progressive Hongkong Society.

Mr Chan defeated Mr Yeung by a narrow margin of 2,000 votes out of a total of 16,362 ballots cast.

"In the 1991 direct elections, we are to clash head-on with them. They have an edge over us in terms of both financial resources and manpower," said Mr Li.

ELECTIONS

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1105,535
Page 5
11 Nov 1989
87%

REGIONAL COUNCIL

North

Cheung Hon-chung	5,286
Cheung Kan-kwai	43,829
Registered voters	10,344
Turnout	23.6%

Yuen Long

Ngan Kam-chuen	8,245
Chung Kwai-ping	4,009
Cheng Mui-tin	938
Registered voters	62,197
Turnout	13.19%

(Some votes may have been invalid)

Tai Po

Michael Lai	5,789
Kam-cheung*	4,364
Cheng Chun-ping	43,117
Registered voters	10,190
Turnout	23.6%

Tuen Mun East

Almon Poon	8,310
Chin-hung	2,331
Choi Cheung	41,607
Yuet-lan	10,705
Registered voters	25.7%

Tuen Mun West

Ng Ming-yim*	9,573
Wong Kin-hong	4,785
Registered voters	46,252
Turnout	14.41%

Suen Wan

Albert Chan Wai-yip*	9,006
Yeung Fuk-kwong	7,163
Registered voters	65,200
Turnout	16.62%

Sha Tin East

Tony Kan Chung-nin	6,192
Stanley Sum Yiu-cho	1,613
Tony Lock	240
Registered voters	52,650
Turnout	8.12%

Sha Tin West

Lau Kong-wah*	10,271
Rev Fung Chi-wood	3,918
Registered voters	49,128
Turnout	14.26%

Sai Kung

Wong Shui-sang*	3,863
Registered voters	60,124
Turnout	9.85%

Kwai Chung East

Chow Vick-hay	3,863
Registered voters	60,124
Turnout	16.4%

Islands

Kwai Chung W/ Tsing Yi	3,863
James Wong Man-tai*	5,912
Ms Carmen Chan	60,124
Registered voters	9,853
Turnout	16.4%

Kwong Ping-yan*

Registered voters	58,454
Turnout	9.93%

Wong Tai Sin North

Kan Chi-ho	4,530
Ng Ngok-shing	3,947
Ms Yeung Lai-yin	7,838
Registered voters	86,532
Turnout	16.31%

Wong Tai Sin South

Mok Ying-fan	4,697
Ms Fok Pui-ye*	4,025
Yeung Chiu-ming	1,317
Registered voters	59,158
Turnout	17.2%

Urban Council

Shamshuipo East	8,310
Frederick Fung	7,540
Kin-kee*	2,396
Ms Tse Ling Shuk-yin	58,454
Registered voters	9,936
Turnout	17%

Shamshuipo West

Ma Lee-wo	5,570
Wong Ping-hon	4,304
Registered voters	56,043
Turnout	9.93%

Mongkok

Chan Kwok-ming	3,564
Wong Yuen-wei	1,395
Registered voters	64,913
Turnout	5.00%

Urban Council

Shamshuipo District (2)	10
Wong Tai Sin District (2)	11
Mongkok District (1)	12
Kowloon City District (2)	13
Kwun Tong District (2)	14
Yau Tsim District (1)	15
Central & Western District (1)	16
Wan Chai District (1)	17
Eastern District (2)	18
Southern District (1)	19

(* denotes number of seats)

North Point

Man Sai-cheong*	8,312
Wong Tak-lun	3,326
Registered voters	93,618
Turnout	11.68%

Southern

Joseph Chan Yeuk-sui*	3,055
Registered voters	70,282
Turnout	8.72%

Shau Kei Wan

Brook Bernacchi	5,566
Chiu Kin-man	47
Ms Wong Ching	70,282
Registered voters	8,721
Turnout	12.4%

Kowloon City East

Pao Ping-wing*	5,651
Registered voters	56,769
Turnout	9.15%

Kwun Tong East

Lam Chak-piu	7,187
Wong Ping-kuen	5,644
Registered voters	99,165
Turnout	12.97%

Kwun Tong West

Mrs Elsie Tu*	4,765
Registered voters	41,359
Turnout	11.5%

Central & Western

Chow Wai-keung*	2,877
Registered voters	985
Turnout	862

Wan Chai

Hilton Cheong-jeen*	3,876
Wong Hon-ching	3,085
Registered voters	60,712
Turnout	7,003

(*denotes incumbent)