

S. C. M. P.

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## Akers-Jones stands firm on kuk demand

The Heung Yee Kuk is unlikely to drop its demand to be recognised as a functional constituency although the Secretary for District Administration, Mr David Akers-Jones, reiterated yesterday that the kuk will be strongly represented on the Regional Council.

Under the Government's plan, the kuk's chairman and two vice-chairmen will be ex-officio members of the 36-member council which is to be set up in April.

Three of the council's 12 appointed members will also initially come from the kuk and will be specially chosen to represent its three constituencies.

Other members of the council will include 12 direct-

ly elected constituency-based members and nine representatives elected from among the New Territories district boards.

Speaking after officiating at a charity walk organised by the Community Chest yesterday, Mr Akers-Jones said the Government would discuss with the kuk the naming of three of its members to the new council.

Although the appointments will mean the kuk will yield one-sixth of the voting power of the 36-member council, the kuk has been pressing the Government to recognise it as a functional constituency that can nominate its own member to the Legislative Council.

Mr Akers-Jones's repetition of the kuk's strong representation on the Regional Council is seen as a sign that the Government will not yield to the kuk's demand.

The Government is likely to argue that the Regional Council will be able to nominate one of its representatives to the Legislative Council.

When asked if members of China's National Peoples Congress could stand for district board elections, Mr Akers-Jones said the Government so far had not received any such applications, but would consider the matter should such cases arise.