

April 14, 1976

S.C.M.P.

Allegations against dissolved estate MAC

There were a large number of allegations by local residents concerning the conduct of the Un Chau Street Estate Mutual Aid Committee which was dissolved by the Government late last month.

According to reliable sources, these allegations contributed significantly to the Government's view - that the Un Chau MAC was being run by "over-enthusiastic" people who were likely to become uncontrollable if not restrained in time.

The Government then announced officially that it would withdraw its recognition of the MAC, which represented eight blocks of the estate, from April 1.

In the accompanying dissolution order, the Government explained that the basic policy towards organisation of MACs was that each MAC could only

represent one block of flats.

According to the sources, some of the complaints were that:

- Residents, including young women and girls, were harassed by certain MAC members.

- Residents had been approached by some people using the name of the MAC for donations for purposes which included the recent charity drive to help victims of a major squatter fire.

- Residents, including the aged, were pestered to join the MAC's estate patrols.

The complaints generally alleged that the conduct of some MAC members was interfering with their basic freedom, including that of taking walks around the estate in the evenings.

One Government official told the S.C.M. Post yesterday that

the dissolved MAC had never obtained the full support of the residents in the 10 months of its existence.

In contrast to the full local support most MACs enjoy the Un Chau estate MAC had only succeeded in obtaining "some 22 per cent support from the residents."

This claim by the Government official and the allegations by the residents of the estate were flatly rejected by one member of the former MAC, Mr Chung Yui-kwong.

He said his MAC members had never forced residents to do a single thing without their consent.

Mr Chung also said that 74 per cent of the residents had opted for the Un Chau MAC to remain. Only two per cent were against it continuing in office while the remainder had no views whatsoever.