

Passersby pay little attention  
to youths distributing pamphlets

# 4 radicals held for anti-labour law demo in factory street

FOUR members of the Daily Combat Bulletin were arrested in Taiyan Street, Kuntong yesterday while distributing pamphlets denouncing Hongkong's labour laws.

On Wednesday night, three other members of the Bulletin were arrested when they were painting huge red slogans on the walls of the Sanpokong Labour Department office building.

They were charged with obstruction yesterday in Sanpokong Court, and

remanded to June 16 for trial. They denied the charges.

At about 1 pm yesterday, when Sanpokong was teeming with factory workers during their lunch break, the four youths hoisted a red flag in Taiyan Street and began marching on the pavement brandishing pamphlets.

One of them jumped onto a dustbin and started shouting slogans denouncing Hongkong's labour laws through a loudhailer while the others distributed the pamphlets to passersby.

A few minutes later, a police car and a van arrived and stopped in front of the youth standing on the dust-bin.

Several policemen rushed out and asked the youth to go with

them.

Without any protest, the youth complied and was driven away in the police car.

The other three continued to distribute pamphlets and a short while later a police car arrived and they were arrested.

The four were brought back to Kowloon City Police Station for questioning.

Late last night, Lam Yuk-ping, 16, student; Tang Ching-tsun, 21, garment worker; and Chan Pui-wah, 28, who claimed to be a research student of Cambridge University, were charged with distributing handbills without the permission of the Secretary for Home Affairs.

The fourth youth, Chung Po-hung, 19, a worker, was charged with using a loud-hailer

Without the approval of the Police Commissioner. They were released on police bail of \$300 to \$500 and will appear in Sanpokong Court this morning.

Last night, a member of the Bulletin, Yeung Yat-yun, accused the police of "undemocratically" arresting his colleagues who, he claimed, were peacefully distributing pamphlets to the workers.

"We intended to stage a demonstration outside the Sanpokong Labour Department office to denounce severance pay laws and the Labour Relations Bill immediately after giving away the pamphlets. But we never had a chance to do so."

He said his friends did not put up any resistance when arrested.

"It showed that we did not intend to make trouble," he said.

"We will soon discuss whether or not to continue demonstrations against unreasonable labour laws," Yeung added.

A police spokesman said there was no commotion during the arrests and that the passersby appeared apathetic towards the campaigners. According to witnesses, only four of the 20-odd members of the Bulletin who were present at the demonstration distributed pamphlets.

## DIFFERENT

Meanwhile Hongkong's two major groups of unions yesterday celebrated the May Day in different styles.

The rightwing Hongkong and Kowloon Trade Union Council (TUC), which claims membership of 91 unions and a workforce of 36,035, held a brief but solemn meeting to mark the occasion.

The chairman of TUC, Mr Pang Chun-hoi, said the council had cancelled all feasts and variety shows to mourn the recent death of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

Mr Pang reminded members of the significance of May 1 and its history.

The gathering then observed three minutes' silence to remember the dead Taiwan leader.

A tea party was held afterwards.

On the other hand, the leftwing Federation of Trade Union (FTU), which claims 145,500 members, held a glittering political-orientated cocktail party on Wednesday night to celebrate the event.

More than 2,000 union representatives took part in the function held in the FTU office.

The chairman, Mr Chen Yiu-choi, hailed the communist victory in Vietnam and went on to participants to be aware of Russian infiltration in Hongkong and its activities in other countries. He also attacked capitalism and urged workers of the importance of "striking against it".

Yesterday, many left-wing unions held separate parties and celebrations.

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