

Additional bilingual lawyers are needed A 6

MR Lee Yu-tai suggested that the Chinese University should set up a faculty of law with responsibility for training additional lawyers, especially bilingual ones, to meet the shortage of legal professionals.

But he warned against allowing the localisation of the judiciary to proceed too quickly before sufficient numbers of local lawyers were produced because the "high calibre of the judiciary must be upheld."

Mr Lee also noted that since the introduction of the simultaneous interpretation service in 1971, salaries for full-time simultaneous interpreters and chief simulta-

neous interpreters had remained unchanged in relation to other grades, although the demand for their work had increased substantially.

He called on the Government to improve the compensation package and career structure for these jobs.

"It is inconceivable that the chief simultaneous interpreter, who worked in the Sino-British negotiations on the future of Hongkong, could have been paid the same salary as secondary school principals," he said.

The councillor disagreed with recommendations that people in China should be consulted to ensure that lan-

guage used in Hongkong statutes was similar to that used on the mainland.

He argued that since Hongkong had remained open to the rest of the world its language was probably ahead of that used in China.

"The Chinese language spoken and written by the people of Hongkong is much richer in content and more diversified in usage," he said.

Mr Lee supported the recommendation that traditional Chinese characters rather than simplified characters commonly used on the mainland should be used in the Chinese text of Hongkong laws.