

\$26 m dilemma for supporters

30 May 1989

(Cont'd from Page 1)

a conspiracy offence," he said.

"This is a problem since ultra-leftist elements are very much in control. People have got to be very careful when considering whether the money can be used in China."

Chinese leaders had earlier branded the United States-based China Democratic Alliance as being "counter-revolutionary", and had accused its leaders of inciting student unrest.

New China News Agency officials in Hongkong yesterday declined to openly comment on the funding activities.

However, one senior official who asked not to be named said: "Hongkong is different from foreign countries. It's always a part of China. It's good that Hongkong people expressed their concern over mainland affairs. It should not be considered as interference."

Another liberal leader, Christian Industrial Committee director Lau Chin-shek, said Hongkong should continue to support the Chinese students.

"We are in support of a patriotic and democratic movement. We are not involved in China's power struggle. How other people see us is not important.

"It is possible that China will seek revenge on us, but Hongkong people have already showed that they are a united people," Mr Lau said.

Mr Lee suggested that an alternative would be to set up a fund in Hongkong to finance pro-democracy activities outside China which aimed to promote democracy on the mainland.

He said the money could be used to hold academic meetings to promote support for democracy in China, and to draw international attention to China's problem.

Mr Lee was quick to add that to use the money for the promotion of democracy in Hongkong was out of the question.

"It is not right to do so. When we asked people to donate money, it was not our intention to help local liberals in their campaign. Some people might not have given the money if the dona-

STUDENT representatives from the University of East Asia in Macau handed over \$375,000 to their Beijing counterparts at the weekend.

A total of \$340,000, collected from Macau citizens, was handed over to the Tiananmen Square Command, a students' organisation leading the struggle for democracy, while the other \$35,000 went to the Beijing High Schools Autonomous Union.

tion was used in such a way."

Another Alliance leader, Mr Lee Wing-tat, said there was no immediate plan to stage mass rallies.

Instead, he said, they had begun putting up posters and giving lectures to students at schools in the territory as part of the campaign to promote democracy in China and Hongkong.

A newspaper was being put together by journalist members and those in the publishing business to spread the message about their views on the ongoing movement.

Meanwhile, the pro-China Federation of Education Workers (FEW) and Federation of Trade Unions (FTU) stuck to their position, saying they would use the funds solely for the treatment of the student hunger strikers.

An executive member of FEW, Mr Cheng Kai-nam, will hand over the second cash drop of \$500,000 to the Chinese Red Cross to finance the treatment of the strikers today.

FEW had received a total of \$2.36 million as of yesterday.

Mr Cheng said he would also discuss with student leaders at Tiananmen Square how to use the rest of the fund in the future.

He said they might consider setting up a fund for the rehabilitation of students suffering the after-effects of the hunger strike.

Mr Cheng Yiu-tong, chairman of the FTU, stressed that the \$200,000 they had collected would not be spent on the student democratic movement. It would go towards medical use.

"There is a dilemma over the use of the funds. We've heard that there are various factions among the student body. We have to be very careful," he said.