

150 brave rain in pay protest

By CONNIE LAW

UNDETERRED by the rain, about 150 angry civil servants burned a mock copy of this year's Pay Trend Survey Report outside the Government Secretariat yesterday to protest the flat 10.43 per cent pay rise.

They also burned a placard marked with the Chinese characters "confidence".

One civil servant said: "The flame just reflects our anger."

The chairman of the 32,000-member Hongkong Civil Servants General Union, Mr Mok Ka-wing, said they no longer had confidence in the administration.

"We burned the report because the Government has shown no respect for it," he said.

"It has ignored the pay trend indicators for two second consecutive years. What's the point of having the survey?"

Members of the union also handed in a letter to the Governor, Sir David Wilson, calling on him to reconsider the Executive Council's decision.

The council refused to increase the pay offer for the 189,000 public employees last week despite vehement complaints from staff, particularly those in the lower and middle ranks.

"Civil servants are also victims of the high inflation," said the union's vice-chairman, Mr Felix Cheung Kwok-biu.

In its letter to the Governor, the union said it would not accept the 10.43 per cent increase, which was unfair to the lower and middle rank staff.

It said inflation was Government-induced and the administration should not ask civil servants to bear the brunt of it.

The union last week unanimously supported a counter-proposal of 11.88 per cent for high ranks and 12.49 per cent for middle and lower ranks.

Mr Cheung said the next steps had yet to be decided.

● A TOTAL of 8,510 staff of the Kowloon Motor Bus are to receive a pay rise of 10.21 per cent starting this month.

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST
- 9 JUN 1991