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Activists alert to security threat

By Fan Cheuk-wan

PROMINENT film producer and actor, Mr John Sham Kin-fun, and other supporters of the democracy movement in China have said they are aware of possible threats to their safety.

Activists and student leaders who supported the seven-week student movement said they were alert to surveillance by intelligence forces from the mainland.

Informed sources told *The Hongkong Standard* that Chinese intelligence officers in Hongkong had been ordered to devote special efforts to collect information about groups which support the democratic movement.

A Chinese-language newspaper yesterday quoted the famous comic star and film director as saying that he had learned he was one of the major targets of the Chinese intelligence authorities.

Mr Sham said he had received phone calls questioning his involvement with the "underground network" which helped a number of Chinese dissi-

dents and student leaders escape from the mainland, the paper reported.

Mr Sham said he was closely watched by unidentified people and was aware of the threat to his safety.

"It's no big deal, my life and death, when compared to the students killed in Tiananmen Square. At least I have already lived longer than them for twenty years," he was quoted as saying.

Mr Sham is believed to have left home for a safe house.

Activists said centres of pro-democracy support, such as the university campuses, the headquarters of the Hongkong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Movement in China, and the office of the Hongkong Federation of Students were the targets of major surveillance operations.

Sources said telephones in these premises had been bugged and unidentified strangers had been found on the premises.

A student leader, who took funds and supplies to Beijing in support of the

students, said Mr Sham had advised them to be careful about their personal safety.

He said some student activists had been intimidated on the phone and some had been disturbed by unidentified people at home.

Miss Tina Liu Tien-lan, Mr Sham's ex-wife said the actor left Hongkong for San Francisco yesterday. "He went there to attend the Day of Unity organised by the China Democratic Foundation Association in the United States," she said.

Miss Liu said, "all of Mr Sham's friends are concerned about his personal safety."

"John has his own character and he will decide what to do, nobody is able to influence him. As we know that there may be repercussions for what he did, we should keep silent on the matter."

"John once said the best policy was not to listen to, not to ask for and not to report this kind of news," she said.

Meanwhile, Chinese student leaders in San

Francisco said the disclosure that there was a Beijing government spy among them confirmed earlier suspicions that they were being watched.

The chairman of the Chinese Alliance for Democracy said a delegate to a convention of dissident groups, Mr Shou Huiqi, had declared himself a spy.

"This is hard evidence," said Mr Yu Machun, a member of a China student group at the University of California, formed after the Beijing massacre.

Mr Shou, who attended the Washington University in St Louis told the alliance's international convention in Los Angeles that he was a spy and suggested there were others.

A student leader at Stanford University, Mr Douglas Pan, urged the 40,000 Chinese students in the US to be cautious.

"We know the Chinese government has sent spies. We just have to be very careful what we do, and protect ourselves and our families in China," he said.