

S. K. M. P.

28 February 1978.

# 1,000 students march in protest

In a massive display of solidarity more than 1,000 students and teachers of the Baptist College yesterday marched to the Government Secretariat to hand in their demands and views on the Green Paper on Senior Secondary and Tertiary Education.

Earlier, more than 3,000 students and teachers from all 16 of the college's faculties took part in a mass rally held on the campus to protest against proposals in the Green Paper.

"The Green Paper must not be allowed to go White as it stands and it must be rewritten with some very drastic changes," the head of the Department of Chemistry, Dr Mok Man-hung, said amid thunderous applause.

The manifesto, which was unanimously adopted at the rally, demanded the

Government offer financial assistance to the college amounting to at least \$15 million from the start of the new academic year.

The money will go towards improving the salaries of the teaching staff, and for the purchase of equipment and facilities to maintain and improve the standard of the college's academic programme.

In addition, they requested that financial assistance be given to approved capital development projects of the college.

On the question of status, they urged the Government to consider the college as an integral part of the university-level tertiary education system and to include it in any future scheme of development to provide more opportunities for young people.

On student benefits, the

Government was asked to include the college in the existing general financial assistance scheme administered by the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee for university and Polytechnic students.

"We demand that the discrimination against diploma-holders in the pay scale of the Government service be removed immediately and that salaries and promotion henceforth be decided according to personal performance on the basis of free competition," they said in the manifesto.

The students and teachers protested strongly against the Green Paper's "disregard of the achievements of Hongkong Baptist College and its contribution to the local community, at the same time ignoring its present, and denying it a future role in university-level tertiary education in Hongkong."

A student representative, Mr Liu Yu-shing, also handed in a copy of the views of the college's Student Union regarding the Green Paper and 2,700 signatures in support of it.

Yesterday's action was described by students as the "climax" of a series of activities including seminars, talks and rallies held over the past few months to protest against the Green Paper but they pointed out that it was not the end of their campaign.

A three-day exhibition on "Hongkong's Education System" will open today at the college. The exhibition will be repeated at the Polytechnic, the University of Hongkong and the Chinese University.



Baptist College students at the rally, yesterday.