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Advisers suggest easing press curbs

BY RAIN REN

HONGKONG journalists may find story-gathering in the mainland easier if the Chinese Government approves proposals to relax stringent reporting controls.

Some Beijing-appointed advisers have urged China to reconsider its stance on reporters from Hongkong and

Macau. One of them, Cheng Kai-nam, said he was optimistic about the proposals because a senior official had agreed to consider them.

Mr Cheng said it was first raised with the head of the Hongkong and Macau Affairs Office under the State Council, Lu Ping, during his stay in the enclave two weeks ago.

He said Mr Lu asked for written recommendations as

to what aspects of the reporting policy should be relaxed.

Mr Cheng and another adviser, Cheng Yiu-tong, are preparing detailed proposals to submit to the local branch of Xinhua News Agency soon.

Beijing introduced a seven-item list of reporting regulations for Hongkong and Macau journalists in late 1990, following the 4 June crackdown. The regulations

were revised last year to include 15 days advance notice for applications to the Hongkong office of Xinhua.

Mr Cheng said Hongkong and Macau journalists should be given greater scope to report in China to enable a better understanding in the lead-up to the sovereignty changeover in Hongkong in 1997 and Macau two years later.