

Action sought on obscene publications

A CHRISTIAN organisation yesterday called on the government to clamp down on Chinese-language pornographic material, which, they claimed, is inciting young people to indecent behaviour.

The Hongkong Christian Service (HCS) has sent copies of "offending magazines" and two relevant case studies to the Umelco office and various district boards, said Miss Hilda Yeung, information officer of the HCS.

She said the organisation had formed a special team, consisting of educationists, social workers, and a clinical psychologist, early this year to monitor the sudden upsurge of Chinese hardcore pornographic magazines in the market.

Three magazines were their targets, including one about which the Home Affairs Branch admitted having heard previous com-

plaints.

Miss Yeung claimed that these magazines presented sex with "steamy, exaggerated wording" and "revolting coloured photos".

Two cases believed to be related to these magazines came to the special team's attention.

One concerned a young girl who had been molested by her 18-year-old brother.

Though unable to contact the girl's elder brother, the HCS case workers found copies of the magazines at her home, which were supposedly fervently-read by both her brother and father.

The other case was uncovered by the organisation's out-reach team.

Seven Form 2 to Form 4 girl students, aged between 14 and 16, had "behaviour problems" when the out-reach workers met them.

"They are school drop-outs and in some cases, run-aways. Anyway, leaving home overnight is nothing unusual for them. They admitted that their know-

ledge of sex mainly came from these magazines," Miss Yeung said.

"And they say they don't mind to 'have a fling' with the first one to come along."

The special team's concern was that publishing and public selling of hardcore porno magazines will create and channel sexual drives to undesirable outlets.

Imported porno magazines, being expensive, were less available to local youngsters, she said.

"In addition, most of them are unable to read the text."

Mrs Brenda Fung, Principal Assistant Secretary (Home Affairs), Recreation and Culture, yesterday said she had not seen the HCS's detailed petition to Umelco.

But she said "any article which consists of or contains matter of an indecent, obscene, or revolting nature" comes under Objectionable Publications Ordinance.

The maximum penalty is a fine of \$10,000 and six-months' imprisonment.

She said an interdepartment working group, jointly formed by the Home Affairs Branch, the police, Customs and Excise and the Legal Department, held meetings every two months to monitor the situation.

And just a few weeks ago, the working group met with local publishers, advising them, "based on past conviction cases," to be more careful.

She acknowledged that there had definitely been a complaint against one of the magazines mentioned by the HCS.