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Agencies demand action on porn magazine sales

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Concerned welfare agencies handed over pornographic magazines to the Umelco office in a call for tighter curbs.

The eight Chinese pornographic magazines were from 23 voluntary social welfare agencies.

Seven representatives of the 23 agencies in Kun Tong visited the office urging the Government to devise long-term and effective measures to control the proliferation of pornographic magazines in Hongkong.

The representatives expressed grave concern on the harmful effects the magazines might have on youngsters.

Mr Mak Wai-fu, a spokesman for the agencies, said they had recently done street

observations and found that six out of 10 pornographic magazine buyers were adolescents.

"Some were even below 10 years old," said Mr Mak.

Mr Mak added it was ironic for the Government to provide funds for youth services, while allowing youngsters to have easy access to these magazines.

Meeting the representatives at the office were Legislative Councillors Mrs Rosanna Tam, Mr Ngai Shiu-kit, Mr Liu Lit-for and Mr K.C. Chan.

The representatives suggested the Government should:

- Restrict the sale of pornographic magazines at designated venues by putting

them in sealed plastic bags. People under 18 should not be allowed to purchase them.

- Impose heavier penalties on offenders.

- Consider higher taxation on the publishers of such magazines to reduce their profits.

- Establish a tribunal with power to prosecute.

Mr Mak said the existence of a tribunal could help define pornographic and violent publications.

Mr Mak suggested that judges in future trials of pornographic and violent magazines should be Chinese, or foreigners who are familiar with the Chinese culture, so that they could interpret the degree of obscenity of the publications.