

1997: The people's biggest fear...

ONE of the biggest fears of the people here is the possible intervention of China in Hongkong's administration, a survey showed.

The survey also showed that many people were worried that Hongkong may not be able to maintain its judicial independence after 1997.

A total of 1,000 people were interviewed in the survey which was conducted in Shamshuipo jointly by the district board and the Urban Council.

The survey is one of a series in 14 districts to collect the people's opinion on the 1997 issue.

Urban Councillor Lee Chik-yuen yesterday told a press conference that the final result of the surveys would be compiled into a report to be submitted to the Chinese government when Urban Councillors and district board members visit Beijing later this month.

Mr Lee said that they would also present the findings to the British Government.

The result may be handed over to Sir Geoffrey Howe directly when he visits Hongkong next Wednesday or sent directly to British Members of Parliament.

Mr Lee said about 60 percent of the respondents thought that the scheme of "Hongkong people governing Hongkong" was the best.

Less than 2 percent of them hoped that there would be a direct Chinese takeover, Mr Lee said.

And nearly half of them said the future policy-making body in Hongkong should be a wholly elected one.

Eight percent felt the future governor should be elected rather than appointed.

The respondents also wanted participation by the people of Hongkong in the drafting of a mini-constitution for the territory.