

2 Oct. 1989

4 MODELS FOR LEGISLATURE

		1995	1997	2001	2003	2007	2112
1	CHA - CHA		27% 73%		38% 62%	50% 50%	100% ?
2	NEW HONGKONG ALLIANCE		25% 50% 25%				
3	4.4.2 COMPROMISE		40% 40% 20%	60% 40%			
4	OMELCO	NOT LESS THAN 50% 50%	NOT LESS THAN 50% 50%		100%		

DIRECT ELECTION

FUNCTIONAL CONSTITUENCY

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Given the present political climate, analysts say such a moderate approach has the best chance of succeeding, but only if Mr Lo can avoid confrontation with China and keep radical fringe elements from bickering.

Omelco model: Since the Office of Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils works collectively, it is difficult to attribute any single force behind its political model.

Spurred by the June 4 massacre, councillors decided to speed up the timetable for direct elections so that by 1995 at least half of the legislature would be given over to universal franchise. The rest would be decided by functional constituencies.

The system would be carried over to the first post-1977 government under the "Lowu Solution" agreed between London and Beijing to minimise disruption during the 1997 handover.

After that Omelco hopes the entire legislature and the chief executive will be directly elected by 2003.

Although Omelco reached its consensus in August, apart from senior member Allen Lee Peng-fei, it has done little to sell it to the public.

Ever since China denounced it, councillors have begun breaking away from their earlier consensus. Unless Omelco engages in some quick and selective lobbying, it is in danger of being left behind.

The Others: There are other minority models which look unlikely to gain widespread support, mostly because they fit into the category of "too much, too soon".

The most liberal blueprint comes from outside Hongkong. After completing its inquiry into Hongkong, the British Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee recommended that half the legislature be directly elected in 1991 and fully directly elected by 1995.

On the chief executive, it prefers the first to be chosen by an electoral college and subsequent ones by universal suffrage.

The liberal alliance Group of 190 also calls for 100 per cent direct elections to the legislature and chief executive, but not until at least 1997.

mittee, the main advisory body to the drafting committee.

Along with other conservative businessmen and professionals, he formed the Group of 89, which advocated a cautious approach to democratisation, a view in line with Beijing thinking.

But June 4 changed all that and Mr Lo decided that Hongkong needed to speed up its democratic timetable.

In recent months he has laboured behind the scenes in getting liberals, moderates and conservative members of the consultative committee to agree to a political blueprint.

Dubbed the "4-4-2" model, it calls for 40 per cent of seats directly elected in 1997, 40 per cent through functional constituencies and 20 per cent through an electoral college. The number of directly elected seats would gradually increase to 60 per cent in 2001.

Last week he succeeded in getting the support of all three factions, who have agreed in principle to his model. The next step is to fine tune the model over the next few weeks before the present consultation period ends.

He will then have to lobby support from the public and law drafters, a task made easier because of the key role he plays on the consultative committee.