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\$3m spent by Alliance to aid activists

By DANIEL KWAN

THE Hongkong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Movement in China has spent more than \$3 million helping Chinese dissidents flee the mainland since the June 4 Tiananmen Square massacre, it was disclosed yesterday.

However, Mr Cheung Man-kwong, a spokesman for the Alliance, declined to divulge how many dissidents they had helped but said they had kept accounts of every dollar spent.

Mr Cheung said the Alliance had paid for the dissidents' accommodation, living expenses in Hongkong, settlement in foreign countries and transportation.

Since last August, Mr Cheung said, the Alliance had spent more than \$2.5 million on living expenses for the dissidents.

"The increase in living expenses was because most of the dissidents arrived in

Hongkong after August," he said.

"The present financial situation of the Alliance is normal and we have no immediate plan to organise any large-scale fund raising activities."

Mr Cheung also said they had yet to decide on whether to set up a foundation fund for education purposes, although the idea had been accepted by the general committee.

"We are seeking legal advice on this matter. We believe if it does not contravene our constitution and is not against Hongkong law, we may decide to do so," he said.

Mr Cheung said they had decided to allocate \$500,000 to subsidise overseas groups in organising activities on the first anniversary of the June 4 event. Another \$200,000 would be given to local groups and the Alliance itself would spend about \$200,000.

Mr Cheung said the Alliance had \$16,893,536.28 in its accounts after spending

\$8,376,632.19 on various activities, including financial aid to Beijing students, funds confiscated by Beijing and helping dissidents.

He also said they had given \$1.01 million to the Federation for a Democratic China (FDC), a Paris-based organisation which has been branded by Beijing as a "counter-revolutionary group".

Mr Cheung said they would soon make an attempt to request for the return of about \$1.5 million which was confiscated by Beijing last June. But he admitted they had little idea on how to proceed with the request.

Meanwhile, Mr Cheung said the alliance would not provide money for a radio broadcast project planned by the FDC.

The FDC is planning to hire a vessel to sail along China's coast broadcasting radio programmes to the mainland about the Beijing massacre and developments in Eastern Europe.