

7 legislators on alliance committee

By SHIRLEY YAM

SEVEN Legislative Councillors from the United Democrats were last night elected to the executive committee of the Hongkong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Movement in China, which Beijing has branded as subversive.

At the third annual meeting of the alliance, the 24-member executive committee vowed to defy China by continuing its campaign in support of democracy on the mainland.

Of the seven new executive committee members, six were re-elected.

They are Mr Szeto Wah, Dr Yeung Sum, Mr Cheung Man-kwong, Mr Lau Chin-shek, Mr Lee Wing-tat and Dr Conrad Lam Kui-shing.

The new Legco member on the committee is the Reverend Fung Chi-wood.

As expected, legislator Mr Martin Lee Chu-ming was not re-elected as vice-chairman after he announced last week that he

would step down from the executive committee.

But he will remain a member of the alliance.

The new core leadership is to meet on Thursday to elect, from among themselves, the office-bearers including the chairman.

Mr Cheung rejected suggestions that the alliance's image would be affected because Mr Lee had stepped down.

"The alliance has never been formed because of Mr Lee or any individual. People joined it for democracy in China. Our image rests with our performance, not who is on the executive committee," he said.

Of Mr Lee's departure, he said: "People in both the party and the alliance, including me, have advised him to concentrate on the party business."

Mr Lee did not attend the annual meeting. He sent a representative.

Representatives of 95 of 225 affiliated groups attended the six-hour meeting.

Mr Szeto Wah said he

would accept nomination to become chairman of the alliance.

Mr Szeto rejected suggestions that the alliance had been exploited by politicians to gain publicity.

"The alliance is not a comfortable seat. There is pressure from all directions. Only fools will try to gain clout out of it," he said.

Commenting on calls from his Legco colleague, Mr Steven Poon Kwok-lim for a dissolution of the alliance, Mr Szeto said the fluctuations in Sino-Hongkong relationships in the past two years had never been caused by the alliance's existence.

Other elected executive committee members include UDHK vice-chairman, Mr Ho Chun-yan, unionist, Mr Lee Cheuk-yan, who secured 91, the highest number of votes; Federation of Hongkong Students leader, Mr Lee Kam-hang; district board members, Mr To Kwun-hang, Mr Leung Yiu-chung, Mr Kwong Fook-sang and Mr Wai Hing-cheung.