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90,000 sign petition urging a referendum

By CHRIS YEUNG

LIBERALS fighting for a referendum on conflicting post-1997 political proposals have polled the support of more than 90,000 people during a two-day campaign which ended yesterday.

The New Year campaign is the first of a series of last-ditch protests organised by the democratic lobby to denounce the so-called "mainstream proposal" and call for a referendum before the Basic Law drafters meet in Guangzhou next Monday.

A spokesman for the democratic camp, Mr Yeung Sum, said they have

also asked for talks this week with Mr Xu Jiatur, the director of the local branch of the New China News Agency and a vice-chairman of the drafting body.

Mr Yeung will lead a 15-member delegation to hand over the signatures to Basic Law drafters in Guangzhou.

Hundreds of liberals were out at major Mass Transit Railway stations and housing estates in Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan to collect the signatures over the weekend. They had originally expected to collect only 50,000.

This latest batch will be added to the 46,000 so far collected by liberals who have been staging a marathon hunger strike at the Star Ferry in Central since last month.

Social worker Mr Chan Tse-sing and Mr Cheung Kam-shing, a teacher, have become the 14th pair of liberals to take part in the hunger strike.