

Activists cut budget as subsidies decrease

THE Hongkong Alliance in Support of the Patriotic Democratic Movement in China has cut its spending by almost 80 per cent in the past year, according to its latest financial report.

Subsidies for overseas groups and the amount spent helping Chinese dissidents in foreign countries in particular have dropped.

In the 10 months to the end of April, \$2.26 million had been spent, compared with a 1989-90 expenditure of \$12 million.

To April 30, the coalition still had \$10.6 million in its coffers. This compares to

\$12.96 million by last June.

One of the biggest cuts was in subsidies to overseas organisations, including the Federation for a Democratic China, a Paris-based organisation branded "counter-revolutionary" by the Chinese Government. These dropped an estimated 90 per cent to \$165,705 in the 10 months to April.

There was a similar cut of about 73 per cent to \$1.4 million in financial aid for Chinese dissidents who have fled the mainland.

About \$5.2 million was spent in aid of dissidents in the year after the June 4 massacre.