

22 APR 1988

Academic praises party

The Chinese Communist Party received high marks from local academic Dr Joseph Cheng for its successful united front at the recently-concluded meeting of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Dr Cheng, a senior lecturer of the Chinese University's Government and Public Affairs Department said the "bold performance" of some local members was a typical result of communist united front work.

"Even the NPC serves this function. Take for example Miss Lisa Wang, she was the successful choice of the Party. It is not easy for the Party to pick a suitable target of such popularity and so much confidence in Hongkong's future," he said.

Dr Cheng said it was also excellent propaganda to have a top television celebrity vowing not to emigrate in the lead-up to 1997.

He said the Party was also successful in breaking up the local democratic camp by appointing Mr Lau Nai-keung into the top advisory body.

Dr Cheng said Mr Lau was a "model" of "democrats for re-union," whose appointment served to isolate the party's main enemies in Hongkong. He said these "enemies" are those "democrats who are guarding against the communists" such as Mr Martin Lee.

Dr Cheng said having council members making a noise fulfils the united front purpose as long as such dissent does not amount to a challenge to the Party.

"For instance, the speech of prominent dissident Mr Wu Zuguang was not allowed to be published in the CPPCC report. It shows that the Party isn't too tolerant of opposition.

"So it is obvious that those veteran members like Mr Tsui Sze-man who made the boldest move to criticise the government did so because they have established strong credentials and reputations on the mainland," he said.

But he said it was very difficult to expect council members to serve any important advisory function.