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## Advisers meet Zhou over crime

By LANA WONG

THE deterioration of law and order in Hongkong prompted the Director of the New China News Agency, Mr Zhou Nan, to call a meeting with eight Hongkong affairs advisers.

It is the first time that Mr Zhou has called for such a meeting since the appointment of the 44 advisers in March.

Speaking after the meeting yesterday, Mr Cheng Yiu-tong said Mr Zhou had expressed concern about serious crime, particularly armed robberies.

Mr Zhou told the advisers that priority should be given to raising the morale of the police force.

Mr Cheng also quoted Mr Zhou as saying co-operation between Hongkong and Chinese authorities on a crackdown on criminal activities was needed.

Mr Zhou said China would be willing to help Hongkong detect cross-border crimes, Mr Cheng said.

Another adviser attending the meeting, Miss Maria Tam Wai-chu, said Chinese premier Mr Li Peng was also concerned about law and order in Hongkong.

Miss Tam returned yesterday from Beijing after paying a four-day visit together with members of the Liberal Democratic Federation.

Mr Leung Chun-ying said he believed Mr Zhou only invited eight advisers to discuss the problem because fewer people would allow more in-depth discussion.

Mr Zhou was quoted as saying that he would continue to invite the advisers for discussion on a number of issues in future.