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CRACKDOWN IN BEIJING; Hong Kong Adds Spice To Protests

By BARBARA BASLER and SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES JUNE 4, 1989

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Days ago, just before dawn, more than 100 nightclub hostesses, still wearing the bright, provocative clothes of their trade, staged a demonstration in front of the New China News Agency, the de facto Chinese consulate here. They arrived in sleek sedans and taxis, and marched in front of the office building, carrying banners and calling for democracy.

In a colony noted for its political apathy and reticence, virtually every kind of Hong Kong citizen has taken part in a march or demonstration recently, and two separate rallies here last Sunday each drew hundreds of thousands.

The people of Hong Kong have staged a huge pro-democracy pop concert, raised millions of dollars for the Beijing student movement, and crossed the border into China carrying suitcases full of cash to help the cause.

And now their enthusiasm for democracy has begun to spill over into their own political arena, with even conservatives calling for speedier democratic reforms before the colony is returned to China in 1997.

"No matter what happens in China now, politics has changed in Hong Kong," said T. L. Tsim, a political analyst and the director of the Chinese University Press.

"People have come alive." Sense of Urgency

With more citizens now determined to oppose repression by China, the basic law -

the Constitution that will govern Hong Kong after 1997 - has become a more urgent issue.

Hong Kong citizens have only a month left to offer opinions on what kind of political model they want laid down in the basic law, but local politicians this week proposed extending the consultation period to enable people to "rethink the crucial issues in the basic law," as one member of the basic law drafting committee explained.

"What's happening in China does indicate the importance of getting the basic law right," Dame Lydia Dunn, a senior executive councilor said this week, as she announced a new initiative with the broad endorsement of Hong Kong councilors.

In two separate meetings in the last few days, the largely appointed, generally conservative members of the colony's legislative and executive bodies agreed to endorse proposals that call for the chief executive and the legislature in Hong Kong to be directly elected years earlier than the proposals in the basic law draft.

For two years now, politicians have been divided over the issue of how the legislature and the chief executive will be chosen after 1997, when Hong Kong will become a special administrative region of China.

Business executives have proposed postponing and limiting democracy here until years after the Communists take control. Liberals have pushed for direct elections for legislators and the chief executive before and soon after the takeover. Higher Approval Needed

The basic law drafting committee -a group of 54 members dominated by the 32 members from the mainland -must study all recommendations and then draft the articles of the document, which will be submitted to the National People's Congress for approval.

In their sessions, the legislators announced a compromise political model that calls for half of the legislature, which is now composed of Government-appointed officials and those elected by constituency groups, to be directly elected by 1997, and all members to be elected by 2003.

The Group of 89, a conservative lobbying organization made up of business executives, said that while it would not yet back the new proposal, it did believe that it was necessary "to consider speeding up the democratization" of the Hong Kong Government.

Under the current arrangement, Hong Kong would not have an elected leader until at least 15 years after China takes over, and on Tuesday, the councilors

proposed direct elections for that post by 2003.

Martin Lee, a lawyer and the leader of the pro-democracy groups here, agreed that what Hong Kong people want is more democracy. He said the unsettling events in China have "awakened" the people here in two ways: "More people who can afford to leave will be leaving now. And the vast majority who cannot leave will band together to fight for more democracy here. That is the promising part."

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