

(English translation prepared  
by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for Members' reference only)

(Letterhead of the Secretariat of Legislative Councillors of the Democratic Party)

10 October 2000

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee  
Chairman of the House Committee  
Legislative Council  
8 Jackson Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mrs CHOW,

The need for the Chief Executive, the Chief Secretary for Administration,  
the Financial Secretary and the Secretary for Justice  
to brief the Council on the relevant meetings held  
after their trips to Beijing and official visits abroad

It has been a tradition for the heads of the Executive Authorities, including the former Governor and the former Chief Secretary, to attend Legislative Council (LegCo) meetings on a regular basis, or after trips to report on their work and important overseas visits, or as and when necessary, to explain major government policies and answer questions raised by Members. Such an arrangement is aimed at establishing a sound system of the Executive Authorities being accountable to the Legislative Council.

However, since Hong Kong's reunification with China, the heads of the Executive Authorities have seldom attended LegCo meetings to brief this Council on matters concerning their trips to Beijing to report their work or important official visits abroad. Therefore, I would like to ask the LegCo House Committee to discuss a proposal that the Chief Executive and the above-mentioned Secretaries should, at the request of the Council, attend LegCo meetings after their trips to Beijing or important visits abroad to brief this Council on the relevant meetings held during such trips, as well as to answer questions raised by Members, so as to maintain a well-established sound system of the executive authorities being accountable to the legislature.

Please include this matter in the agenda. With best regards,

CHENG Mo-ching  
Research Officer of the Secretariat of Legislative  
Councillors of the Democratic Party

for Hon Martin LEE  
LegCo Member of the Democratic Party