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22 March 2001

Mr Joseph W P WONG, JP
Secretary for the Civil Service
Civil Service Bureau
Lower Albert Road
Hong Kong

Dear Mr WONG,

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

Employment matters of principal officials

On the instruction of Hon Andrew WONG, Chairman of the Panel, I write to follow up on the above item which was discussed at the meeting on 19 March 2001.

Some members were dissatisfied that the Administration had declined to give a reply to some of the specific questions raised by members at the meeting. It has been agreed that the Panel will discuss whether and if so how the matter should be further pursued at the next Panel meeting to be held on 23 April 2001. To facilitate members' consideration at the next meeting, the Chairman has instructed me to write to you to seek a response to the following questions -

- (a) Timing for conducting integrity checking of principal officials to be employed on civil service agreement terms - whether the integrity checking of Mr Antony Leung (Financial Secretary designate), Ms Elsie Leung (Secretary for Justice) and Dr Yeoh Eng-kiong (Secretary for Health and Welfare) was completed prior to or after appointment by the Central People's Government; if the integrity checking was not completed prior to the appointment, whether a review of the present procedure is warranted;

- (b) The purpose of conducting an integrity checking and how does the result of the integrity checking relate to the appointment of a principal official;
- (c) Whether Mr Antony Leung has entered into an employment contract with the SAR Government; if he has, when did it take place; and whether the content of the contract can be disclosed; if not, the reasons for that;
- (d) Differences in terms and conditions of employment contracts offered by the former Government and the SAR Government - whether the employment contracts offered to persons such as Mr Michael Thomas (former Attorney General) and Sir John Henry Bremridge (former Financial Secretary) were the same as those offered to persons in para (a) above; if not, please explain the differences; and
- (e) To explain the policy and arrangement for principal officials to be converted from pensionable terms to agreement terms as a result of opting to receive marriage gratuity such as Mrs Lily Yam (Secretary for the Environment and food) and Mrs Katherine Fok (former principal official), and whether the terms and conditions of such employment contracts were the same as those offered to persons appointed on civil service agreement terms at an equivalent rank; if not, please explain why not.

I should be grateful if you could let me have a bilingual reply (with soft copy) **by 17 April 2001**.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Percy MA)
Clerk to Panel

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