

16 December 2000

Clerk to the LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Mrs Percy Ma)

Dear Mrs Ma,

**LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs
Follow-up to the meeting on 31 October 2000**

I refer to your letter of 2 November 2000 addressed to the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs requesting progress reports on our discussion with the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) of the State Council on the mechanism for amending the Basic Law.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Constitutional Affairs on 31 October 2000, we informed Members that the Administration had held six meetings with HKMAO to discuss the matter since 1999. At those meetings, we briefed HKMAO on the views expressed by LegCo Members, academics and other relevant parties on the matter. We also briefed them on Members' views and the views of other on our preliminary analysis on the issues identified for study. HKMAO indicated that they would study the matter, but given the complexity of the issues involved, they would need more time to examine the issues.

We again raised the matter at our recent meeting with HKMAO in November. At the meeting, we conveyed to HKMAO the concerns expressed by Members of the Panel over the limited progress made so far in devising a mechanism for amending the Basic Law. HKMAO indicated that the matter was complex and required careful consideration. HKMAO also considered it necessary to study the matter in conjunction with the National People's Congress as many issues involved arrangements relating to the National People's Congress.

The Administration will report to the Panel when there is further progress on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Mable Chan)
for Secretary for Constitutional Affairs