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21 June, 2001

Mrs Florence Lam
Clerk to LegCo Panel on
Financial Affairs
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Hong Kong

Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited (Merger) Bill

Bank of East Asia, Limited Bill

At the LegCo Financial Affairs Panel meeting on 19 June 2001, a Member asked the Administration to provide the legal advice on the human rights angle of the protection of privacy. The Department of Justice has confirmed that the provisions of the Bills are consistent with the human rights provisions, including provisions protecting privacy, of the Basic Law, having considered the background of the merging of the banks; the provisions relating to the disclosure of information to the surviving banks under the Bills and the views of the Privacy Commissioner on those proposed provisions.

Please convey the above information to Members of the Panel.

(Stanley W.H. Wong)
for Secretary for Financial Services