

**LegCo Panel on Security
Information Note**

Rendition Arrangement between the HKSAR and the Mainland

Members have asked to be provided with an information paper on the progress of establishing an arrangement with the Mainland on surrender of fugitive offenders.

2. As reported at the special Panel meeting on 13 April 2000, we commenced discussions on rendition with the Mainland authorities in March 1999 in accordance with the five fundamental principles explained to Members at previous Panel meetings. So far, four rounds of expert talks had been held (in March, August and November 1999 and March 2000). Experts from both sides have in-depth discussions on various major issues pertinent to the formulation of a rendition arrangement [including safeguards, concurrent jurisdiction and procedures].

3. Since the last round of talk in Beijing in March 2000, experts of both sides have continued to exchange views through correspondence. Given the complexity of the subject, we have not been able to complete the talks with the Mainland authorities in 2000. Further discussions are required and we do not have a firm timetable for completion of the talks.

4. As we have explained to Members before, any final arrangement will have to be underpinned by local legislation and be acceptable to the Hong Kong community. Please refer to para. 6 of S for S's speaking note for the Panel meeting. Upon the completion of the talks, we intend to consult the Panel and the relevant bodies on the proposed arrangement before we embark upon the drafting of the necessary legislation. The Bill will of course be subject to the scrutiny of the Legislative Council in the legislative process. We believe that the views of the Legislative Council and the public will be fully taken into account in the process.