

Legislative Council Panel on Security

Policy on Handling Activities of Associations Registered under the Societies Ordinance and Enforcement of the Ordinance

Purpose

This paper addresses the questions put forward by Members as set out in the LegCo Secretariat's letter of CB2/PL/SE dated 7 February 2001.

Policy of Handling Activities of Registered Societies

2. Hong Kong is a free and open society where freedom of association and assembly is guaranteed under Article 27 of the Basic Law.
3. Societies registered under the Societies Ordinance may carry out their activities freely provided these are within the law. The Government, in dealing with the activities of any organisation, will act in accordance with the law.
4. The Hong Kong Association of Falun Dafa is a registered society under the Societies Ordinance. Falun Gong members are expected to operate within the law and the Government will deal with their activities in accordance with the law. Given the organisation's recent activities which have given rise to public concern, there is a need for the Government to keep in view their activities so as to ensure proper maintenance of public order in Hong Kong.

Enforcement of the Ordinance

5. As at the end of January 2001, there are some 12 700 societies registered or exempted from registration under the Societies Ordinance. Out of these, some 4 400 societies were registered after 1 July 1997. As regards

the enforcement of the Societies Ordinance, the Police will conduct investigations on receipt of public complaints or information. From 1991 to 2000, there were 11 806 cases of reported crimes in relation to unlawful societies under the Societies Ordinance. All cases were related to triad societies.

Security Bureau
February 2001