

立法會

Legislative Council

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 4 January 2002

Report of the Legislative Council delegation to visit Canada and the United States

Visit to Canada and the United States

Purpose

This paper invites the House Committee to endorse the recommendation of the Legislative Council delegation that the United States (US) portion of the above visit be cancelled.

Background

2. On 9 November 2001, the House Committee agreed that a delegation should pay a nine-day visit to Toronto and Ottawa of Canada, and Washington DC of the US from 16 to 24 February 2002. The House Committee also endorsed the composition of the delegation on 30 November 2001.

Recent developments

3. The original tentative programme for the delegation had included a visit to Washington DC from 21 to 23 February 2002. The US Consulate General in Hong Kong had advised that the US Congress would probably be in recess after the President's Day on 18 February 2002, but it was suggested by the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee that it might be possible for the delegation to meet interested Congressmen and Senators who would be in Washington DC during the period. At its meeting held on 5 December 2001, the delegation decided to enlist the assistance of the Washington Office of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO) in drawing up a programme for the visit to Washington.

4. The Washington Office of the HKETO subsequently confirmed that it could not line up any congressional calls during the proposed period as no Congressmen or Senators would stay in Washington during the recess. Taking into account the latest advice of the HKETO and the fact that one of the stated objectives of the visit was to foster liaison with members of the US Congress, the delegation decided at its meeting on 21 December 2001 that it would not be worthwhile visiting Washington DC when no congressional meetings could be arranged.

The delegation's recommendation

5. In view of the latest developments outlined in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, the delegation recommends cancelling the US portion of the visit so that it can make full use of the nine days to visit Toronto and Ottawa.

Decision sought

6. Members are invited to endorse the delegation's recommendation in paragraph 5.

Legislative Council Secretariat
31 December 2001

