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(Letterhead of the Office of Emily LAU, Legislative Councillor)

4 December 2001

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, JP
Chairman of the House Committee

Dear Mrs CHOW,

Recently, there have been media reports that Mr TUNG Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive (CE), will make a duty visit to Beijing in mid December. I would like to put forward a proposal at the House Committee meeting this Friday that CE be invited to a Legislative Council (LegCo) meeting upon his return to Hong Kong to brief Members on his duty visit and answer their questions.

On a separate matter, Mr Antony LEUNG Kam-chung, Financial Secretary, attended on invitation a meeting of the Panel on Financial Affairs yesterday to brief the Panel on his recent visit to Beijing. Mr LEUNG pointed out at the meeting that "I think the media are doing a very good job in raising questions and almost all information about my visit has been instantly reported to the public through the media. I don't find it necessary to brief LegCo on every visit. Nor do I find it necessary to account for anything."

Mr LEUNG's remarks are shocking and perplexing because according to Article 64 of the Basic Law, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region must be accountable to LegCo and shall answer questions raised by LegCo Members. Since Mr LEUNG considers answering a few media questions to be tantamount to making an account, this raises doubts about how he regards LegCo and whether he is aware of the provision of Article 64 of the Basic Law.

I hope that the House Committee will discuss the proposal to invite CE to a LegCo meeting and Mr LEUNG's remarks, and that you would convey Members' views to the Executive Authorities.

I look forward to your reply.

Emily LAU