

Commissioner of Police's transcript dated 25 April 2002

The behaviour of those Right of Abode seekers and supporters at Chater Garden as displayed in yesterday's event was irresponsible and not to be tolerated. Police will continue to adopt a firm approach in dealing with any violent and threatening behaviour.

This afternoon, police took action in accordance with the Public Order Ordinance to prohibit the meeting at Chater Garden. Prior to taking action, police gave clear notice to announce our intention and the reasons for taking this course of action. Should those people wish to give notification for holding a public meeting at another location, they are entitled to do so. Police will consider the proposed location, the proposed number of people involved and the intended activities before making a response in accordance with the law. Should they insist in holding a meeting at Chater Garden, they may petition the Public Order Ordinance Appeal Board to appeal against the police decision.

As regards the eight persons who were arrested by the police at Chater Garden yesterday, we have already sought legal advice and charged all eight persons with Assaulting Police, Disorderly Conduct and Obstruction offences.

As regards the security of Legco, police will consult the Secretary General of Legco to see what additional measures we need to take in order to ensure the safety of the personnel working in and attending Legco.