

Ms Margaret Ng  
Chairman  
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services  
Legislative Council

18<sup>th</sup> June, 2003

Dear Ms Ng,

Thank you for your invitation to attend the meeting of the Legislative Council panel on administration of justice and legal services to be held on 20th June 2003. We feel we are not in a position to comment authoritatively on the matters under discussion and will therefore not attend the meeting.

However, we would make the general point that we oppose the provisions in the National Security (Legislative Provisions) Bill on the proscription of organizations, since they fall outside the ambit of article 23 of the Basic Law and they would blur the very important distinction between the mainland and Hong Kong legal jurisdictions.

In particular, we oppose the provisions in the bill allowing appeal hearings to be closed to sections of the public, including the media, the appellant and his or her legal representative. We believe they should be deleted as they are contrary to the principle of open justice.

Yours sincerely,



Mak Yin-ting  
CHAIRPERSON