

2003/01/01 02:22 AM

To: rlam@legco.gov.hk
cc:
Subject: Re: New Year Greetings

To: The Government of Hong Kong

Greetings and Best Wishes to You for a prosperous and peaceful 2003 for yourselves and for the people of Hong Kong. I have been reading about the proposed new law Article 23. I think it is a mistake and a going in the wrong direction for you to enact such a law as this. You will be moving away from freedom and democracy and towards authoritarianism. That is the wrong way. Independent trade unions are one of the foundations upon which democracy rests. Unions support democracy, they do not undermine it. Hong Kong is different from the rest of China and it should remain a place that is free and open, while the rest of China slowly develops and evolves and follows the example of Hong Kong. Please do not enact Article 23. Please do not restrict independent trade unions through the passage of a "national security law" designed to crush the independent trade unions that now exist legally under your current laws. All the world is watching to see what you will do. do the right thing. Vote for freedom and against repression. Vote for democracy. If you vote against democracy you will surely lose your democracy. Good Luck to you and to all the people of Hong Kong!!!

Very truly yours, David Johnson of New York City