

Margaret Ng

Member of Legislative Council

Room 118, Van Henry House

16, The House Street

Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2525 7633 Fax: (852) 2801 7134

E-mail: m_ng@hk.super.net

Website: <http://www.margaretng.com>

COPY

14 January 2003

Secretary for Security
The Hon Regina Ip Lau Suk Yee
6th floor, Main and East Wings,
Central Government Offices,
Hong Kong

Dear Secretary,

According to Government figures, a total of more than 90 000 submissions from organizations and individuals had been received by the Security Bureau by the end of the consultation period of the Government's proposals to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law. This demonstrates the extent to which public concern is aroused. In the joint meeting of the Panel on Security and Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services on 7 January this year, you told members that the analysis work of the submissions will be completed within this month. Given the wide public concern, I feel I should write to you to find out about the process and method you use for the analysis.

According to a news report of the South China Morning Post on 13 January, in a written response to the SCMP's queries, a spokeswoman of your bureau said there was no standard procedure or specific computer programme for such analysis, and the analysis is being carried out with internal resources of the Security Bureau.

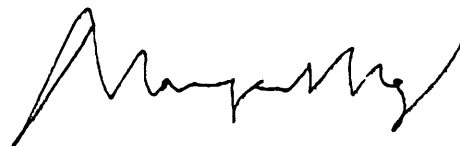
I would like to ask you to explain how the submissions will be sorted out and analysed so as to ensure a detailed and unbiased report. For instance, I would like to know whether the Security Bureau means to sort submissions received into only two categories, of those generally in support of legislation and those opposing any kind of legislation on principle, so that submissions strongly criticizing the proposals in material aspects will nonetheless treated as belonging to the first category? I would also like to know whether you have ever considered entrusting the compilation and

analysis of the submissions to some independent organizations which specialize in surveys, research and analysis work?

The Acting Permanent Secretary for Security, Mr Timothy Tong, said in a Government statement at the close of the consultation period (24 December 2002) that the Security Bureau will publish a report on results of the consultation together with concerns and suggestions expressed on specific areas of the proposals. However, in view of the far-reaching implications of Article 23 legislation and the widespread public concern, I urge you to publish all submissions, so that members of the public would be able to examine them, and to judge for themselves the accuracy and adequacy of the report and the conclusions contained in it.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Ng', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Margaret Ng