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BY FAX (Total 2 pages) AND BY HAND

Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP
Panel Chairman
LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs
c/o 2/F, The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Building
24-25 Connaught Road Central
Hong Kong

**Panel on Financial Affairs
Special meeting held on 28 March 2003**

Thank you for your letter of 4 April.

We fully appreciate the role and functions of the Panel on Financial Affairs in providing a useful forum for discussion of issues of public concern; and in deliberating and monitoring of public policies. We have all along attached great importance to consulting the Panel on major policy issues and proposed legislation with a view to taking into account suggestions and views from members of the Panel and various sectors of the community. Please rest assured that it is our full intention to continue to engage the Panel in a constructive dialogue.

I have duly reminded my colleagues in the bureau to adhere to the standing arrangement of providing papers for the Panel before meetings. As stressed in my letter of 31 March, we respect the discussion and views of the Panel and endeavour to follow up its suggestions.

(Frederick S. Ma)
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

c.c. Hon Mrs Selina CHOW, GBS, JP,
Chairman of the House Committee