

Transcript of Constitutional Development Task Force's press conference

Following is the transcript (English portion) of the Question and Answer session of a press conference given by the Constitutional Development Task Force, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Donald Tsang, on the Fourth Report of the Constitutional Development Task Force today (December 15):

Reporter: Polling shows consistently between two thirds and three-quarters of the Hong Kong public want universal suffrage as soon as possible. This suggests there is already a consensus in the community on this matter and that most of the objections come from a small minority of people. A very small minority of people are against universal suffrage. Most of those people who are publicly known are seen as proxies for the Central People's Government. What is the point of this exercise given that it is pretty much a public consensus ... the issue of democracy. The Government simply can't take it because it goes against what Beijing wants. Is it more a question of what Beijing wants and what is the point of continuing with this large-scale exercise which is going to result in a result that most Hong Kong people are going to find less than satisfactory.

CS: Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of China and any constitutional development changes must require the tripartite agreement which has been enshrined in the Basic Law from day one. So if one of the three parties, in this case the National People's Congress Standing Committee have very clearly indicated that for the elections in 2007, 2008 universal suffrage elections will not be acceptable. I am sure, even within that framework, there are lots of changes we can make to move towards universal suffrage as a final aim and we are really working on that. I am sure Hong Kong people are pragmatic and able to come to some consensus to ensure that the process of democratisation, opening up of government will continue under this procedure.

Reporter: Isn't it a question of what Beijing can accept than what Hong Kong people want. Why bother with this elaborate exercise?

CS: I have said already there are lots of areas in which we are able to change and we have outlined these areas that we are capable of changing in Report Number Three. And we have also outlined how people have reacted to it in very detail in Report Number Four. And I am sure there is room for discussion. I believe it is at this stage at least it is not very meaningful to hark back on the matters on which the National People's Congress have flatly said no. So what I believe we are doing is a pragmatic way of doing it. I am trying to find a consensus among the three parties concerned underpinned of course by public opinion in Hong Kong.

Reporter: My question goes to the statement you just made that you are looking for a solution underpinned by public opinion. At the end of the day you will put forward something that you will assert represents a mainstream view. To be credible that will have to be

demonstrated, so will Hong Kong people have any opportunity to express directly their view whether they find it acceptable or unacceptable. If not, why not and what alternatives do you have?

CS: In the coming few months we will be consulting the public widely. Not only will we be using the various forums that we deployed in the consultation on Report Number Three but we will be doing other things as well. We have in mind as a task force to conduct an open forum inviting all members of the community to participate. The exact details have yet to be worked out. In other words everyone will have a chance to express his or her view. In addition to face-to-face expression of views there are many other ways using faxes, mails, using our website and even telephoning us. I can promise any members of the public that we will listen to their views carefully and take them into account.

Reporter: Are you talking about a single forum or a series of forums?

CS: We are walking on a series of forums. There are some with larger groups, some with smaller groups and some with open forums as well.

SCA: We have it in mind to visit District Councils so that in the 18 districts' representatives of the people and district councillors will have the opportunity to put forth their views to us directly.

Reporter: That's indirect isn't it because it's the representatives, not the people.

SCA: I'm saying the district councillors.

CS: We are going to have open forums so members of the public can come forward as well.

(Please also refer to the [Chinese](#) portion.)

Ends/Wednesday, December 15, 2004

NNNN

 Real Media ([Floor](#) / [Cantonese](#) / [Putonghua](#) / [English](#))

 Windows Media ([Floor](#) / [Cantonese](#) / [Putonghua](#) / [English](#))

 [Email this article](#)

政制發展專責小組記者會答問全文（二）

記者：你不斷強調希望收窄大家的分歧，但其實現在立法會民主黨都說了，除了零七／零八年普選之外，其他的妥協方案都不會接受，二十五名泛民主派都講明爭取零七／零八普選，你有否信心或有甚麼方法可以令到最後肯定會有三分之二議會的議員可以接受到第五號報告書的方案呢？

政務司司長：沒人可以肯定一樣東西，因為決定權不在我，也不在專責小組。決定權是在立法會、在特首和人大。但我們會作一切努力，盡量在三方面尋求一個共識的方案，我很相信立法會議員和香港人一樣，就務實的方法，一定尋求一個向普選的目標，盡量在零七／零八年邁進一步。

記者：我想問明年的主流方案出來後，就會與立法會商討，但立法會議員會不會可以修改該個方案呢？同時隨後是否會有以白紙草案的形式出來諮詢公眾？

政務司司長：我們將來希望如果在得到共識後，在第五號報告書裏一定要法律條文化，到時我們會用其他方式處理這個問題。有關處理方案的問題，人大在四月二十六日是有決定的，有關修改的方法，修改任何有關政制選舉的方法都需要由特區政府提出的。

記者：這即是說是不可以修改的，是嗎？

政務司司長：我們作任何的修改也需要由特區政府提出，並不是由立法會提出。

記者：曾司長，你可否說說如果產生辦法一日未出台，是否不可能有普選的時間表？如果當這個產生的辦法出了台後，你估計要再用幾多時間去制定普選實施的時間？

政務司司長：我想在這個時間，這個時段，我自己的優先工作是希望能夠與香港市民一起對這兩個選舉方法訂出我們修改的方案，這是我的首要任務。對於其他問題，連同時間表在內，是一個相當複雜的問題，現在爭議性亦相當大，分歧亦很多。我自己現時暫沒有任何時間表，可以說出我們在甚麼時間之內，可以真正決定這兩樣事情。但最重要的是我們決定怎樣能夠修改（選舉）的方法，這有一個限期，二零零七年我們有新的特首，我們一定要在二零零五年、二零零六年時，已經決定我們怎樣能夠選出特首。

記者：司長，請問你們有沒有計劃上京，與中央溝通關於那個主流方案究竟是甚麼模式呢？

政務司司長：我們在這過程之中，我們在有需要的時候也有與中央溝通。我相信在製作這個第五號報告書的中間，我們會找尋機會，在適當時間繼續與中央溝通。

記者：司長，如果立法會不夠三分二票數通過方案，香港零七／零八年（的政制）很有可能原地踏步，但事實上多數香港市民支持普選而中央否決了，你覺得如果原地踏步會是立法會的責任、中央的責任還是專責小組的責任？

政務司司長：我想我們大家都要負起責任，因為《基本法》賦予我們、連同中央及立法會都要朝着普選的目標進發，我很希望在零七年及零八年的選舉均能在這方面有所表達和落實，如果是這樣，我們都不希望見到你所講的事情發生。我希望對這問題用一個正面的看法，一定要盡一番努力。現在我們在第四號報告書已經說明是可行的，各意見書裏對每一個修改的方法都看到一個光譜，從中可尋求一個主流方案。我覺得在民主過程中是逐步逐步去做，零七／零八年是同樣重要。

記者：由小組提出的主流方案不獲代表廣泛民意的立法會通過，似乎責任是在專責小組方面？

政務司司長：我相信大家都要負這個責任，專責小組不會卸責，我們會繼續努力。

（待續）

二〇〇四年十二月十五日（星期三）

 寄給朋友

政制發展專責小組記者會答問全文(三)

記者：司長，想問清楚，根據你之前的說法，是否在發表五號報告書之前，你們是不會提出方案讓市民去選擇？因為你今日的解說似乎是在迴避一個最關鍵的問題，就是屆時你們會根據些什麼標準，什麼方法，去決定何者是主流方案，會得到最多市民同意？是否是由你們三位專責小組去決定，抑或是如何呢？因為今日你在立法會也說過，希望方案是能夠得到大部份市民支持，那麼如果不是進行例如是全民調查這種方法，那麼你們有何方法可以說明方案是得到大部份市民支持呢？

政務司司長：首先我們並沒有排除不會做調查，我們是會做調查；但調查只是一種方法，我們仍然要有不同的場合，如剛才所說的公開論壇、小組討論、深入探討，有些閉門、有些公開；另外，我們也聽了市民給我們的意見，在每一個修改的法例中，可以在不斷的討論中，能夠見到何者是最多人支持的。

記者：司長，聽市民的意見和你們去選擇那一方案是最多市民支持是兩回事呢？你們始終提不出是根據什麼標準或什麼方式？

政務司司長：最好的標準就是最多市民支持。

記者：如何知道是最多市民支持？

政務司司長：我相信這個就是要有判斷了，當聽了普羅大眾的意見，聽了他們的聲音，自自然然會見到最近的、最多人支持的是什麼。

記者：即是沒有一個客觀的方法可透露？

政務司司長：我想最客觀的方法就是聽市民的意見，如果我們已全部做了諮詢工具中可以做的方法，我想專責小組不會卸責，一定會說出他們所認為的，市民最有可能達成的一個最可能的共識。

記者：我想問有關普選的時間表，如今只有一句「日後適當時候才進一步處理」，這樣會不會欠缺誠意呢？這麼多市民，就算不想要零七零八年（直選），也期望有一個時間表，比較具體一點，你是否連有一個計劃例如何時起會進一步研究零七零八後的政制步伐的工作計劃都沒有呢？

政務司司長：我想最重要的是見到市民的意見，如果各位翻查今次我們收到的市民意見中，對於時間表方面的分歧是很大的。我一定要分開我們工作的優先次序，我們先要處理零七零八年的選舉，然後才處理其他的問題。在現時的階段裏，的確確很艱難說出何時開始研究下一步的工作。我認為現時先要處理這兩個選舉，如果辦不到，其他的事做出來都無謂。

記者：是否要留待下一屆特首更改過班子後才去處理呢？

政務司司長：我們知道自己的工作時間是有限度的，但我覺得對於整個政制發展要有責任最重要的是誠意地解釋及告訴給香港人聽，我們怎樣去處理這些問題。我覺得優先任務是要處理零七零八年選舉的修改方法，下一步其他的問題我們會逐步逐步去處理。但何時做呢，我現時說不出。為甚麼呢？因為最重要的任務還沒有完結，還沒有認真開始做得完。我希望在第五號報告書裏，先處理零七零八年選舉的修改，然後才可以處理其他很多的問題，其中一個是時間表的問題。

記者：想問元旦遊行，是集中在普選及反西九，其實矛頭是衝向你，你會否擔心自己要付出幾大的政治代價？

政務司司長：我是香港市民的僕人，我想我整日都是聽着市民的意見，但市民亦要求我盡一分的力量，做我應該做的工夫。有關於政制發展專責小組，和你說的西九亦都是特區政府給我做的工夫，我會盡一切能力做，我相信市民會體諒我的。

記者：司長，你剛才說，在過程中會不停與中央溝通，其實中央的意見，是否在主流意見裏面佔一個很大比重呢？如果有某些方案是中央．．．

政務司司長：讓我答了這問題先好嗎？我想我要說回《基本法》本身，附件裏說得清清楚楚，因為我們任何的共識都需要三方面認同的。行政長官我時常都見得到，立法會議員我亦每星期見過一次，但中央方面我都要溝通的，所以我想在這過程之中，至第五號報告書之前，一定要與中央溝通。

記者：如果中央對某些方案表示反對的話，是否不會在主流方案那裏出現呢？

政務司司長：我現在不想對中央的意見有任何的揣測，但我希望先聽到香港普羅大眾對這個《基本法》不違反，和對於今年四月二十六日人大的《決定》裏面所容許的框架之下我們能夠做出的意見裏面，我們爭取最大的空間，做出我們認為可以能夠做的主流方案。在這方面我們會盡量向中央溝通，希望這方面能夠達到與中央有共識，與立法會三分之二的議員有共識。

記者：剛才你說會做民意調查，你的意思是否你會定下一些方案，然後來做民意調查，這就是你們定下所謂主流方案的客觀標準？還是這個客觀標準只是由你們定出來的呢？

政務司司長：當你看到普羅大眾對我們發表的意見，對一項可以修改的法例表達的意見時，慢慢地你可以看到最多人會對你談的是那一方面的事情。在這種情況下，我們作為民調的基礎，我相信是不錯的。我再說多一次，我們現時還沒有具體地想到這個問題，但我們不排除會做民意調查的工作。

政制事務局局長：另一方面，你們要知道這個公眾諮詢的過程是一個互動的過程，我們與區議會、地區人士、專業團體、政黨政團一面談，我們是會觸及社會上多方面的意見是甚麼，所以我們在過去一年做了公眾的討論後，就可以把頻譜收窄，現時多了人提出把選舉委員會增加至1,200人至1,600人；立法會的議席（增加到）70至80席，然後我們用這個基礎在未來數月再多些互動，使到我們的觸角會更敏銳點。

政務司司長：我再說多一次，這是我們集體的決定，並不是我們

任意的決定。你看一看現時第四號報告書在處理每一項可以修改的項目當中，我們提出的光譜，你亦可以從我們收到的意見裏加以印證。同一原因，第五號報告書，我們談到主流方案裏，每一個項目都要在當其時我們從各方面收到的意見裏可以加以印證的。所以換言之，並不是我們的決定，我們所提出的是我們集體、全香港的決定。

記者：想問一下程序問題。增加立法會議席及增加行政長官選舉委員會人數，是直接牽涉（《基本法》）附件一、附件二，這方面肯定需要三分二（議員）投票，但功能組別選民基礎，以及選委會分組選舉基礎，即是立法會選舉的選民基礎，和選舉委員會分組選舉辦法，以往是本地立法，不用三分二（議員）。想問一下現在政府計劃的做法，是分開兩條Bill（草案）提交，即分兩次提交，先取三分二（議員）通過，還是另有做法？

政制事務局局長：如果我們有一個主流方案，獲得立法會及香港社會整體上的支持，我們第一步是要根據人大常委會在四月的解釋，先修改附件一、附件二的整體規定。例如選舉委員會的人數要增加的，由800增加到幾多？繼而下一步我們就是進行本地立法，本地立法需要按照新的附件一，以定出行政長官選舉條例新的規定。在我們數星期前交給立法會的文件中，我們已整體上概略說明了時段，在二零零五年下半年，我們希望可以推動《基本法》附件一、二的修訂，然後二零零六年上半年，就開始推動行政長官選舉修訂條例草案，後者是本地立法。

（請同時參閱英文部分）

完

二〇〇四年十二月十五日（星期三）

 寄給朋友

Transcript of Constitutional Development Task Force's press conference

Following is the transcript (English portion) of the Question and Answer session of a press conference given by the Constitutional Development Task Force, led by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Donald Tsang, on the Fourth Report of the Constitutional Development Task Force today (December 15):

Reporter: Polling shows consistently between two thirds and three-quarters of the Hong Kong public want universal suffrage as soon as possible. This suggests there is already a consensus in the community on this matter and that most of the objections come from a small minority of people. A very small minority of people are against universal suffrage. Most of those people who are publicly known are seen as proxies for the Central People's Government. What is the point of this exercise given that it is pretty much a public consensus ... the issue of democracy. The Government simply can't take it because it goes against what Beijing wants. Is it more a question of what Beijing wants and what is the point of continuing with this large-scale exercise which is going to result in a result that most Hong Kong people are going to find less than satisfactory.

CS: Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of China and any constitutional development changes must require the tripartite agreement which has been enshrined in the Basic Law from day one. So if one of the three parties, in this case the National People's Congress Standing Committee have very clearly indicated that for the elections in 2007, 2008 universal suffrage elections will not be acceptable. I am sure, even within that framework, there are lots of changes we can make to move towards universal suffrage as a final aim and we are really working on that. I am sure Hong Kong people are pragmatic and able to come to some consensus to ensure that the process of democratisation, opening up of government will continue under this procedure.

Reporter: Isn't it a question of what Beijing can accept than what Hong Kong people want. Why bother with this elaborate exercise?

CS: I have said already there are lots of areas in which we are able to change and we have outlined these areas that we are capable of changing in Report Number Three. And we have also outlined how people have reacted to it in very detail in Report Number Four. And I am sure there is room for discussion. I believe it is at this stage at least it is not very meaningful to hark back on the matters on which the National People's Congress have flatly said no. So what I believe we are doing is a pragmatic way of doing it. I am trying to find a consensus among the three parties concerned underpinned of course by public opinion in Hong Kong.

Reporter: My question goes to the statement you just made that you are looking for a solution underpinned by public opinion. At the end of the day you will put forward something that you will assert represents a mainstream view. To be credible that will have to be

demonstrated, so will Hong Kong people have any opportunity to express directly their view whether they find it acceptable or unacceptable. If not, why not and what alternatives do you have?

CS: In the coming few months we will be consulting the public widely. Not only will we be using the various forums that we deployed in the consultation on Report Number Three but we will be doing other things as well. We have in mind as a task force to conduct an open forum inviting all members of the community to participate. The exact details have yet to be worked out. In other words everyone will have a chance to express his or her view. In addition to face-to-face expression of views there are many other ways using faxes, mails, using our website and even telephoning us. I can promise any members of the public that we will listen to their views carefully and take them into account.

Reporter: Are you talking about a single forum or a series of forums?

CS: We are walking on a series of forums. There are some with larger groups, some with smaller groups and some with open forums as well.

SCA: We have it in mind to visit District Councils so that in the 18 districts' representatives of the people and district councillors will have the opportunity to put forth their views to us directly.

Reporter: That's indirect isn't it because it's the representatives, not the people.

SCA: I'm saying the district councillors.

CS: We are going to have open forums so members of the public can come forward as well.

(Please also refer to the [Chinese](#) portion.)

Ends/Wednesday, December 15, 2004

NNNN

 Real Media ([Floor](#) / [Cantonese](#) / [Putonghua](#) / [English](#))

 Windows Media ([Floor](#) / [Cantonese](#) / [Putonghua](#) / [English](#))

 [Email this article](#)