

For information

Paper for Panel on Security

**Contingency Plan for Emergency
Operations Outside Hong Kong**

We informed Members vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1740/04-05 (04) for the meeting of the Panel on Security on 13 June 2005 that the new contingency plan on ‘Emergency Response Operations Outside the Hong Kong SAR’ was being finalised, and that we would promulgate it as an internal Government action plan when ready. We would like to report that the contingency plan has now been issued to Government Bureaux and Departments, and a copy has been uploaded onto the Security Bureau’s website.

2. We also promised to change the current 8-digit number for the Assistance to Hong Kong Residents Unit (AHU) Hotline (2829 3010) to a 4-digit one as soon as the technical arrangements have been made. We are pleased to advise that we have now confirmed the feasibility of such a new number, and we expect that subject to the completion of practical arrangements by the service operators, the new hotline number (1868) will be in operation around **mid-August 2005**. We will announce the final date for launching the new number later, with suitable publicity to make the change widely known to the public. There will be a transitional period of time when members of the public dialling the old number will still have their calls redirected to the new number.

3. When making publicity for the new number, we will take the opportunity to remind members of the public to take precautionary measures when travelling abroad. For example, they should leave their itinerary with someone in Hong Kong, and note down useful contact numbers, such as those of the relevant Chinese Diplomatic and Consular Missions overseas available on the Immigration Department’s website and the website of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (OCMFA) of the People’s Republic of China in Hong Kong. Members of the travelling public should also consider taking out appropriate travel insurance.

Security Bureau
29 July 2005