

(Translation prepared by the
Legislative Council Secretariat)

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6 January 2009
Urgent By Fax: 2537 0119

Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Room 325, West Wing
Central Government Offices
Hong Kong

Dear Mr LEUNG

Council meeting of 7 January 2009

**Application for moving a
motion for the adjournment of the Council**

You wrote to me on 5 January 2009 seeking my permission for you to move at tomorrow's Council meeting the following motion for the adjournment of the Council under Rule 16(2) of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP"):

"That this Council do now adjourn for the purpose of debating the following issue: The Israeli Government's attack on the Gaza Strip."

RoP 16(2) provides that a motion for the adjournment of the Council may be moved with the permission of the President, if the President is satisfied that the adjournment is for the purpose of discussing a specific issue of urgent public importance.

As regards the urgent importance of the issue, you pointed out in your letter that the military actions taken by Israeli troops have aroused international condemnations and demands for Israel to cease fire immediately. The United Nations Security Council ("UNSC") continues to hold emergency meetings to discuss actions in response. If this Council expresses objection to the Israeli Government's attack on the Gaza Strip and calls upon it to respect

humanitarianism and allow the delivery of relief supplies by the United Nations and other international relief organizations to rescue the residents of the Gaza Strip who are now in great distress, it may expedite the exercise of influence by the Government of our country at UNSC to condemn the Israeli Government, so as to prevent the number of casualties from further increasing.

I consider the issue raised by you to be of public importance. With globalization nowadays, the humanitarian and economic issues arising from military actions in any region which have caused heavy casualties of a large number of civilians will arouse public concern.

As for the urgency of the issue, the proposed issue for discussion relates to on-going military actions where there are a large number of heavy casualties including civilians every day. These are special circumstances which render the issue urgent within the meaning of RoP 16(2).

Based on the above reasons, I have decided to give you permission to move the said motion for adjournment at the Council meeting tomorrow.

Yours sincerely

(Jasper TSANG Yok-sing)
President
Legislative Council

c.c. All other Legislative Council Members