

(Translation prepared by the
Legislative Council Secretariat)

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15 October 2010

Urgent By Fax: 2537 0119

Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Room A, Floor 3
Lee Hang Industrial Building
10 Cheung Yue Street
Cheung Sha Wan
Kowloon

Dear Mr LEUNG

Council meeting of 20 October 2010

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

You wrote to me on 13 October 2010 seeking my permission for you to move at the Council meeting on 20 October 2010 the following motion for the adjournment of the Council under Rule 16(2) of the Rules of Procedure:

“That this Council do now adjourn for the purpose of debating the issue of demanding the Chinese Government to release LIU Xiaobo.”

Rule 16(2) of the Rules of Procedure 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.

In considering whether the issue raised by you is urgent, I have made reference to the two established principles which are adopted for considering applications of the same type of motion debates, namely:

- (a) if the debate is not carried out at the Council meeting specified by the Member concerned, whether there will be any irreversible consequences; and
- (b) if the issue is not debated at that Council meeting, whether the Council will not debate the issue in the foreseeable future?

You wrote in your letter: “the imprisonment of Mr LIU Xiaobo due to the views he expressed has given rise to condemnation from the international community and an avalanche of demands for his immediate release. The Nobel Peace Prize recently awarded to Mr LIU further affirms his contributions to human rights development in China. If the Legislative Council of Hong Kong takes stance and demands LIU Xiaobo’s release and asks the Chinese Government to respect human rights by allowing its citizens to enjoy basic rights such as the freedom of speech, the democratization of the Government of the People’s Republic of China will be expedited”. The aforesaid grounds put forward by you fail to convince me that the issue for debate raised by you is so urgent that it must be debated at the Council meeting of 20 October 2010. I am of the view that even if it is not debated at that Council meeting, there will not be any irreversible consequences, and Members will not lose the opportunity to express views on that issue at Council meetings.

For the above reasons I am unable to grant permission to your request.

Yours sincerely

(Jasper TSANG Yok-sing)
President
Legislative Council

c.c. All other Legislative Council Members