

**LETTERHEAD OF SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT**

27<sup>th</sup> November 98

Your Ref : CB2/PL/CA  
Our Ref : CAB A9/1  
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Mrs Percy Ma  
Clerk to Panel  
LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Ma

**LegCo Panel on Constitutional Affairs  
Follow-up to meeting on 16 November 1998**

Thank you for your letter of 19 November 1998 to the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs. As regards the information sought in item (d) therein, I set out below our bilingual response for your necessary actions:

“16 retired state leaders visited Hong Kong after the re-unification. The visits were arranged by the New China News Agency. The cost of the visits was borne by the State.

The HKSARG extended the appropriate courtesies such as VIP facilities and security protection, and provided them with hospitality. These courtesies are part of the regular operation of the HKSARG for receiving VIPs, and were provided from the

relevant general votes. In any case, the amount involved was insignificant.

回歸後，共有 16 名退休國家領導人曾到訪香港。這些訪問由新華社安排，費用由國家支付。

香港特區政府為這些到訪人士提供貴賓設施和保安等適當的禮遇安排，並予以款待。這些禮遇安排，屬於香港特區政府日常接待貴賓的工作範疇，所需開支從有關的一般用途的撥款支付，而涉及的款額亦微不足道。”

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Wendy Cheung)  
for Secretary for Constitutional Affairs