

16 July 1999

Dr Leong Che-hung
Chairman
Legislative Council House Committee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Dr Leong,

Visits of Leaders of Central People's Government

The Chief Executive has asked me to thank you for your letter of 8 July, the contents of which have been noted.

It has always been the practice of the Administration to try and arrange for important visitors, including senior Chinese officials, to meet with a wide spectrum of people from the community during their stay in Hong Kong, so as to enable them to have a good understanding of Hong Kong. In drawing up the visit programme and the list of people to meet with the visitors, we need to take into account various considerations and constraints, including the nature, purpose and duration of the visit.

In the case of the recent visit of the Vice President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Hu Jintao, it is not true that LegCo Members had not been invited to the official functions organised for Vice President Hu. In fact, all Members and their spouses were invited to attend the Flag Raising Ceremony and the Ceremony for the Unveiling of the Monument held in the morning of 1 July, during which Mr. Hu was the Principal Officiating Guest.

You may wish to note that about 110 local personalities from different sectors of the community attended the meeting with Vice President Hu held on 29 June, during which Vice President Hu delivered a speech and took pictures with the group. Indeed 13 Members, including the LegCo President, attended the event.

While we can fully appreciate your wish to have more Members invited to the various activities, we consider that we have struck a right balance in the arrangements for Vice President Hu's visit given the numerous demands on the visit programme.

Yours sincerely,

(Joshua C. K. Law)

Private Secretary to Chief Executive