

(Translation of the Legislative Council Secretariat, for reference purpose)

(Letterhead: The Neighbourhood and Workers Service Centre
LEGCO Member, Leung Yiu-chung's Office)

23.2.2000

Members of the Subcommittee on Review of Operating Expenses
for Members of the Legislative Council

Dear Members,

**Arrangements in respect of Members' remuneration
upon expiry of their term of office**

Regarding the arrangements in respect of Members' remuneration and operating expenses reimbursement (referred to as "remuneration" hereafter) upon expiry of their current term of office on 30 June this year, I consider that normal remuneration for the period between 1 July 2000 and the election day on 10 September 2000 should be granted to Members as usual. The justifications to maintain the present remuneration arrangement before the election date are as follows:

1. According to section 11 of the Legislative Council Ordinance, the President must, at the request of the Chief Executive, convene an emergency session of the Legislative Council in case of emergencies during the period after the end of Members' term of office and before the election of the new Legislative Council. For the purpose of the above meeting, the persons holding office as Members before the end of the term shall be deemed to be Members of the Legislative Council at that time. As Members of the current term in fact still have to fulfil certain legal responsibilities and play a specific role after June this year, it is hence fully justifiable to continue granting them remuneration.
2. According to the practice of the Legislative Council before 1997, the original Legislative Council would first be dissolved before elections were held for another term of office. There was a period of almost two months from the time the Council was dissolved up till the election date. During such periods, it had always been a practice to continue granting remuneration up till the election date to Members who were in office before the dissolution of the Council. Hence I consider it totally reasonable to follow the past practice.
3. At present, almost all Members employ at least three assistants and I believe quite a number of the incumbent Members intend to take part in the election. If they are forced to dismiss all their assistants in July this year, not only will those assistants lose their jobs with immediate effect, the incumbent Members may also lose some of their experienced and capable assistants, even if they are re-elected later. This would definitely undermine the work of the Members to a large extent.

Leung Yiu-chung