

Letterhead of INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

Our Ref.: IF/96/1957 - E4
Your Ref.: CB2/PL/AJLS

28 January, 1999

Mrs. Percy MA,
Clerk to Panel,
Legislative Council,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.

Dear Mrs. MA,

LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Hong Kong Standard Case

I refer to your letter dated 27 January 1999 in which you enquired about the nature of the report which the Department of Justice had requested from the ICAC.

You may wish to know that at the end of the trial in the Hong Kong Standard case, a meeting was held between the Department of Justice and the ICAC. It was agreed during the meeting that the ICAC should write to the solicitors of the three convicted persons seeking an interview with them in relation to matters for which they were convicted. We have written to the solicitors accordingly and are awaiting their response. We have now been asked by the Department of Justice to report on the outcome of our approaches by tomorrow, namely, 29 January.

I should add that we had forwarded a comprehensive report on the case to the Department of Justice at the conclusion of our investigation in December 1997.

Yours sincerely,

(Francis LEE Chun-sang)
for Head of Operations
Independent Commission Against Corruption

Letterhead of DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Secretary for Justice's Office

28 January, 1999

Mrs Percy Ma
Clerk to Panel
LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Legislative Council
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Ma,

Hong Kong Standard Case

Thank you for your letter of 27 January 1999. The position is as follows.

Since the trial finished last week, the ICAC has been carrying out further enquiries to see if further evidence is available. I expect to receive the ICAC's report in this respect at the end of this week or early next week.

If further evidence is available, I will look at the matter again. Such circumstances would clearly affect the terms of the public statement that I intend to make.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Elsie Leung)
Secretary for Justice

cc: Hon C H Leong

Letterhead of LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(By Fax: 2877 3978)

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22 January 1999

Ms Elsie LEUNG, JP
Secretary for Justice
4th floor, High Block
Queensway Government Office
Hong Kong

Dear Ms LEUNG,

LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

Re: Hong Kong Standard case

Thank you for your reply. On the instruction of Hon Margaret NG, the Chairman, the reply was immediately issued to members of the Panel and other LegCo Members for reference.

At this morning's Panel meeting, members took some time to discuss your reply. Members present do not agree to your view that the timing for giving an explanation on your earlier decision not to prosecute Madam Sally AW will need to take into account whether there will be any appeal against conviction in the Hong Kong Standard case. Some members have also pointed out that a recent press report concerning a statement given by Madam AW to the ICAC has raised serious doubts about your earlier decision not to prosecute her.

In view of the public concern about the matter, members request you to reconsider the timing with a view to giving an explanation on the case to the Panel at the earliest possible opportunity.

On the instruction of the Chairman, I write to convey members' views on the matter and to invite you to indicate when you will be able to accede to the Panel's request. I should be grateful for your early reply.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Percy MA)
Clerk to Panel

c.c. Hon Margaret NG (Chairman)