

**Letterhead of DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Secretary for Justice's Office**

21 January, 1999

Urgent by Fax:2509 9055

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

Dear Mrs Ma,

LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

Thank you for your faxed letter of today's date. I am grateful to you for offering me the opportunity to address the Panel about the decision not to prosecute Madam Sally Au. I understand the Panel's concern that this matter be clarified as soon as possible.

When I addressed the PLC Panel on 23 March, 1998, I expressed the hope that, at the conclusion of the trial, it would be possible to make a public statement on the case. I reiterated that hope yesterday, but explained what needs to be done first (see the attached press release).

When the matters referred to in the press release have all been taken into account, I will respond to your enquiry about timing.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Elsie Leung)
Secretary for Justice

cc Hon Margaret Ng (Chairman)

D of J Statement on HK Standard Case

A spokesman for the Department of Justice today issued the following statement after the delivery of the judgment on the HK Standard case:

"The Department of Justice will study the Reasons for Verdict carefully, and will also consider the report of the case being prepared by counsel who conducted the prosecution. If necessary, the transcript will be examined.

"Once that process is complete, the D of J hopes shortly to be in a position to make a public statement about its earlier decision not to prosecute a person who was named in the conspiracy. The timing of any such statement will need to take into account any matter which may be raised if there is any appeal against conviction."