

Panel on Constitutional Affairs

List of issues to be considered

1. Ministerial system of government (proposed by Hon Andrew WONG on 20 July 1998)

Taking into consideration the Administration's advice that it would be impossible for a detailed discussion paper to be prepared for consideration of the Panel before the completion of the 2000 LegCo election, the Chairman, at the Panel meeting on 18 January 1999, undertook to prepare a paper on the subject for members' discussion.

2. Direct elections of LegCo Members and the Chief Executive (proposed by Hon Christine LOH on 20 July 1998)

At the Panel meeting on 18 January 1999, the Administration advised that it had been gathering information on the different systems of Government since the motion debate held on 15 July 1998, but it would not be able to provide a detailed discussion paper for members' discussion before the completion of the 2000 LegCo election.

3. Application of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (Cap. 201) (PBO) to the Chief Executive

At the Panel meeting on 9 February 1999, the Administration advised that it would review the PBO to see whether certain provisions of the Ordinance should be applicable to the Chief Executive. The Administration will report progress after the summer recess.

4. Designation of officials to attend LegCo meetings

The current instruments on designation of officials to attend meetings of LegCo and its committees under Article 62(6) of the Basic Law was signed by the Chief Executive on 31 December 1998. Members are concerned that certain persons who were included in the two instruments signed by the Chief Executive on 26 June 1998 have been excluded. At the House Committee meeting on 16 April 1999, Members agreed that the matter should be followed up by this Panel.

5. Speech made by Secretary for Constitutional Affairs (SCA) at Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations Conference on 8 June 1999.

The subject was raised by Mr Martin LEE at the Panel meeting on 21 June 1999. SCA has been requested to clarify his remarks on development of political parties made at the above conference.

6. Engagement in Public Offices

The Bills Committee on Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Bill has discussed the existing practices of employees of tertiary institutions funded by the University Grants Committee and public-funded bodies taking up public offices. As regards the question of whether these practices should be standardised, the Bills Committee agreed at the meeting on 5 July 1999 that this should be referred to this Panel for follow up.

Legislative Council Secretariat

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