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**Paper for the House Committee Meeting
on 16 June 2000**

Report of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee, 1999-2000

Purpose

This paper reports on the work of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee and the liaison activities held with other parliamentary organizations outside Hong Kong, including the friendship groups formed with the legislatures of Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan and Singapore, in the current session.

Background

2. At the House Committee meeting on 19 October 1999, Members agreed:
 - (a) to send a delegation of Legislative Council Members to visit the European Parliament, Germany and France in the first quarter of 2000;
 - (b) to invite members of the Australia-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group to visit Hong Kong in the second quarter of 2000; and
 - (c) to continue to liaise with the various friendship groups to maintain and enhance the links with the respective legislatures.

Progress

3. The Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee wishes to report on the following developments:
 - (a) European Parliament

From 13 to 20 February 2000, a delegation of Members visited London, Strasbourg and Berlin. In addition to renewing ties with the European Parliament-Hong Kong Friendship Group, the delegation held meetings with Members of Parliament, senior government officials, leaders of major trades and industries, and representatives of public

and private organizations in the three respective cities to exchange views on matters of mutual interest. They also received briefings on a variety of subjects, including urban renewal, environmental protection and economic policies. A full report of the visit was presented to the House Committee on 12 May 2000.

(b) Australia

At the invitation of the Council, members of the Australia-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group visited Hong Kong from 27 February to 2 March 2000 to foster closer links between the two legislatures. During its stay in Hong Kong, the delegation called on the President of the Legislative Council and observed the proceedings of a Legislative Council meeting and a Panel meeting. The delegation also had meetings with Members to discuss issues of mutual concern. Members hosted a dinner for the delegation on 29 February 2000.

(c) Canada

A meeting was held with Mrs Sophia LEUNG, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group, during her visit to Hong Kong on 28 April 2000 to discuss activities which could be organized to strengthen the ties with the Canadian Parliament. Mrs LEUNG invited Members of the Legislative Council to visit Canada later in the year.

4. The Subcommittee also received the delegations of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines and the All Party China Parliamentary Group of the British Parliament, during their respective visits to Hong Kong in September 1999 and March 2000. In response to requests from the consulates general in Hong Kong, the Subcommittee held meetings with individual parliamentarians, including:

- (a) Hon Douglas Parkinson, Deputy Leader for the Government, the Legislative Council of Tasmania;
- (b) Senator Jack Austin, Chairman of the Canada-China Legislative Association and member of the Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group;
- (c) Dr Gregor Gysi and Mr Wolfgang Gehrcke, Members of Parliament, Germany;
- (d) Mr Willy Wimmer, Member of Parliament, Germany and Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; and
- (e) Hon Dr Meredith Anne Burgmann, President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, Australia.

5. On a regular basis, members of the Subcommittee also participated in receiving parliamentarians referred to the Legislative Council by the Information Services Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. During the period July 1999 to the first week of June 2000, members took part in 38 out of a total of 94 meetings with overseas visitors.

6. In addition to the parliamentary visits and meetings, the Subcommittee sent copies of the Legislative Council's 1998-1999 Annual Report to the friendship groups to maintain links and to enhance their understanding of the work of the Hong Kong legislature.

Legislative Council Secretariat

12 June 2000