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24 December 1999

The Hon Mrs Anson CHAN, GBM, JP
The Chief Secretary for Administration
Government Secretariat
Central Government Offices
Lower Albert Road
Hong Kong

Government Economist's Report on 2006 Asian Games

As spoken, I write to seek your assistance in obtaining the Government Economist's report regarding the proposal for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) to host the 2006 Asian Games.

As you may probably be aware, following Government's announcement of its support for the bid to host the 2006 Asian Games, the Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs has repeatedly requested the Home Affairs Bureau to provide the Government Economist's report regarding the proposal for the HKSAR to host the 2006 Asian Games. However, in a letter of 17 December 1999, the Bureau has explained that "the report prepared by the Government Economist contains information which at this time we consider to be "bid sensitive". Therefore, the pre-mature release of the report at this stage would not be in the best interests of the SAR bidding for the right to host the Asian Games".

The Bureau's response was discussed at the last House Committee meeting. Whilst we appreciate Government's position, we are also of the view that any delay in releasing the report would cast doubts on Government's commitment to support the bid for hosting the 2006 Asian Games. In this context, Members would like you to consider releasing the report without the part containing information considered to be "bid sensitive" at the present stage, and releasing the said report in total together with any other further report or analysis of the captioned issue as soon as possible at a later appropriate time.

I would like to add that the Administration's reluctance to divulge the content of the report would also arouse suspicions that the Government Economist's evaluation is not favourable.

The public and the Legislative Council have a right to be provided with all relevant information in considering the merits of Hong Kong's bid to host the Games. The House Committee has therefore instructed me to seek your assistance in obtaining the Government Economist's report for discussion by the Panel on Home Affairs at its meeting scheduled for 10 January 2000.

I look forward to your early reply.

(Dr LEONG Che-hung)
Chairman
Legislative Council House Committee