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17 December, 1999

Mrs Constance LI  
Clerk to Panel  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
(Fax : 2509 9055)

Dear Mrs Li,

Please refer to your letter of 7 December requesting us to provide the Home Affairs Panel with the Government Economist's report regarding the proposal for the SAR to host the 2006 Asian Games.

We have given serious and careful consideration to the Panel's request. Our conclusion is that it would be inappropriate to release the report at the present time. Having declared its interest in bidding for the right to host the 2006 Games, the SAR is now in a position where it is in competition for this right. 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.

As advised earlier, the report of the Government Economist was prepared on the basis of some preliminary data. We are now in the process of engaging a consultant to conduct further study into the financial implications of hosting the Asian Games. Members will be aware that we have stated quite clearly that the SAR Government will consult the Finance Committee before entering into any financial

commitment. It is also our intention to report to the members of the Home Affairs Panel in full in March or April next year before consulting the Finance Committee. By that time we shall be able to present a more comprehensive account of the likely commitment which hosting the Games would entail and we would also be glad to let Members have sight of the original report prepared by the Government Economist.

I should be most grateful if you would convey the above to the Chairman and members of the Home Affairs Panel.

Yours sincerely,

(NG Sek Hon)  
for Secretary for Home Affairs