

SBCR 57/581/76 Pt. 43

CB2/PL/SE

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31 August 1999

Mrs Sharon Tong
Clerk to Panel
LegCo Panel on Security
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F, Citibank Tower
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Tong,

LegCo Panel on Security

Thank you for your letter of 27 July 1999 regarding the Panel's requests to visit the Garrison and relevant public security authorities in Guangdong and Shenzhen.

The Garrison have advised that due to their current heavy commitments, they would not be able to arrange for visits to the Barracks by individual organisations/bodies. They have asked us to convey to the Panel their apology. The Garrison have further indicated that they would welcome the Panel to visit their Barracks on their next Open Day, for which arrangements could be made.

Regarding visits to the Guangdong and Shenzhen public security authorities, as advised by the Constitutional Affairs Bureau, the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office (HKMAO) of the State Council have yet to come to a view on the general arrangements relating to visits by the Legislative Council, the Provisional Municipal Councils and the Provisional District Boards. HKMAO remain of the view that before such an arrangement is put in place, it would be preferable to put on hold proposals to visit the Mainland put forward by these bodies.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. C. Willis)

for Secretary for Security

c.c. SCA(Attn : Ms Doris Ho)