

Ref : LM (2) to LD/HKMA Pt. 18

23 May 2001

Mr Jimmy Ma
Legal Adviser
Legal Service Division
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Ma,

**LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs
Permanent Accommodation for the HKMA**

Thank you for your letter of 22 May.

The file note to which you refer is simply an attendance note recording the principal arguments you told me you would be considering for the purpose of preparing your note together with my initial reaction. To the best of my recollection, those points are recorded accurately.

However, my opinion dated 18 May 2001, and not the attendance note, reflects my views on the issues Members are considering. The attendance note was included among the documents sent to the Panel in the interests of assisting in a greater understanding of the issues and in response to the Panel's request for all legal advice prepared by my office on this subject to be provided.

I share your desire not to distract Members from the main issues. If, however, after the main issues have been settled, you wish to take up your concerns, I would be happy to discuss them with you.

Yours sincerely,

Stefan M Gannon
General Counsel

cc Chief Executive, Hong Kong Monetary Authority
(Attn : Mr Eddie Yue)
Chairman of the LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs
Clerk to the Panel