

April 9, 2003.

Ms Regina Ip
Secretary for Security
Government secretariat
Hong Kong, SAR.

Your FAX: 2810-2261

Your Tel: 2810-2712

Dear Ms Ip,

Re: National Security (Legislative Provisions) Bill.

The past 2 centuries of Chinese history has been one of colonization, dismemberment and humiliation. It took a revolution in 1911 and subsequently 4 wars and tens of millions of lives for China to shake off its colonial fetter and foreign dominance.

It is inconceivable that we would now see gunboats bombarding our outposts, sailing up the Yangtse River and demanding territorial concessions and extraterritoriality. However, it is equally inconceivable that subversive activities would no longer exist in subtler forms bent on derailing China's economic progress and undermining China's stability and territorial integrity by aiding and abetting separatist movements and a two-China policy, and exploiting domestic disorders.

Every nation on earth has its security laws to protect itself from subversion. I do not see any reason why the SAR should not have similar laws to protect itself and to prevent the use of our city as a base for subversive activities against China.

Critics of the Bill should put their mind at ease. The recent outbreak of atypical pneumonia has clearly contrasted the working of two systems in one country. In the Mainland, data on infectious disease are treated as classified information and its release requires permission from the highest officials of the government; bureaucrats are more concerned with the quarantine of crisis statistics than the

pantheon of disease. In contrast, the Hong Kong government informs its citizens from the very outset on SARS contagion and mortality through daily bulletin on Internet, the media and individual inquiry channels.

We have a transparent government, civil liberty, press freedom and a free flow of information people in many regional countries aspire to have. A separate judicial interpretation of the Security Law by courts of the SAR will continue to safeguard our freedoms. One should have little to worry about losing them, unless one intentionally and forcefully tries to probe the tolerance limits of the Chinese Central Government in all spheres of social, political and religious activities.

I consider our amended Bill fair and acceptable; it is a bill that the government can work with and we can live with. It is less stringent than the existing legislation and Singapore's, not to mention security laws enacted in some countries in the post-9.11 era. It does not crimp our life style nor infringe upon our rights and freedoms we are enjoying. Further watering down of the Bill will make it too porous for subversive elements and a toothless legislation for security.

A stable and prosperous China is the best guarantee of a stable and prosperous future SAR and the Asian-pacific region in the emerging New World Order in the 21st century.

Yours truly,

Dr. Clement K.M. Leung.

CC: Mrs. Sharon Tong,
Legco Panel on Security
by FAX 2509-0775.

PS. I have no business interest in China.