

SBCR 2/1162/97

電話 Telephone: 2810 2712
圖文傳真 Facsimile: 2810 2261

2 October 2003

Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Chairman of the House Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Hon Mrs CHOW,

National Security (Legislative Provisions) Bill

I refer to the Chief Executive's announcement on 5 September regarding the withdrawal of the National Security (Legislative Provisions) Bill.

As you know, in terms of legislative procedure, the current status of the bill is that debate on second reading has been adjourned and the bill has been referred to House Committee under Rule 54(4) of the Legislative Council Rules of Procedure. House Committee, under Rule 75(4), allocated the bill to a Bills Committee, which reported to House Committee at the end of last session.

To give effect procedurally to the Chief Executive in Council's decision referred to above, I am writing to confirm that I shall not give notice under Rule 54(5) to resume second reading debate of the bill within the current term of the Legislative Council, with the result that the bill will lapse at the end of this term pursuant to Rule 11(4) and section 9(4) of the Legislative Council Ordinance (Cap. 542).

Whilst this letter addresses the necessary procedural aspects concerning the bill, I wish to extend the Government's sincere gratitude to all

Members, especially members of the Bills Committee, for their dedicated work in scrutinising the bill.

I am certain that the many hours of scrutiny and discussion undertaken will be of immense value in the further process of examination of the relevant issues referred to in the Chief Executive's announcement.

Detailed consideration is now being given to the establishment by Security Bureau of a working group to review both the process and the proposals to implement Article 23 of the Basic Law, and I will be pleased to attend the meeting of the appropriate LegCo committee for discussion in due course.

Yours sincerely,

(Ambrose S K LEE)
Secretary for Security

c.c. Hon IP Kwok-him, JP,
Chairman of Bills Committee on
National Security (Legislative Provisions) Bill
Director of Administration (Attn: Miss Eliza LEE)