

November 12, 2003

Clerk to the Select Committee to
inquire into the handling of
the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by
the Government and the Hospital Authority

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to the captioned inquiry, I am writing in the capacity of a citizen in Hong Kong to express my views on the inquiry.

It is my view that this inquiry is not necessary and a waste of public funds. This is because, although the decisions and actions made by the Government and the Hospital Authority during the SARS outbreak were, in retrospect, not faultless, the officials concerned conducted themselves responsibly and conscientiously during the outbreak. In retrospect, we could single out individual decisions or actions for criticism and condemnation, but making decisions in a crisis like the SARS outbreak has to be based on a lot of uncertainty. As long as officials concerned acted in the public's best interests and to the best of their professional judgment, any 'fault' in retrospect should be put in perspective and not magnified out of proportion.

I believe that this inquiry is a waste of public funds and health officials' working time, which should be better devoted to preventing future outbreaks of SARS or other serious epidemics.

Sincerely



Paul Sze

Mr Paul Sze, [REDACTED], Quarry Bay, Hong Kong
[REDACTED]