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環境保護署署長
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31 December 2003

(BY FAX 2537 1204)

Clerk
Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Dora WAI)

Dear Ms Wai,

***The Director of Audit's Report on the
Results of value for money audits (Report No. 41)
Chapter 8: The acquisition and clearance of shipyard sites***

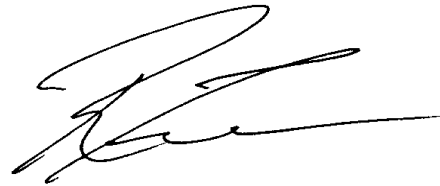
Re your request concerning my reference to views previously expressed by a Greenpeace representative, I would refer you to para 18 of the minutes of the LegCo Environmental Affairs Panel meeting of 19 March 2002.

In response to a request from members to express a view on the Administration's statement that the presence of large quantities of dioxins at shipyard sites was unusual and could not reasonably have been foreseen, Dr Luscombe (the Greenpeace representative) said: "Shipyards had not been widely recognized as a source of dioxins. He was intrigued by the level of contamination".

I think it is clear from the context of the discussion at the Panel meeting that Dr Luscombe basically agreed with the contention that significant quantities of dioxins could not reasonably have been foreseen at a shipyard site.

I believe you have access to the minutes of all the Panel meetings, so I have not attached a copy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Law', written in a cursive style.

(Robert J S Law)
Director of Environmental Protection

cc Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
Director of Civil Engineering
Director of Lands
Commissioner for Tourism
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
(Attn: Miss Amy TSE)
Director of Audit

****Note by Clerk, PAC: Minutes not attached.***