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GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

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19 July 2011

Mr Raymond LAM
Clerk to Panel on Security
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong
(Fax: 2509 0775)

Dear Mr LAM,

Panel on Security
Notification Mechanism of the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station

At the meeting on 7 June 2011, a Member enquired about the food supply in Hong Kong in the event of a nuclear incident. Having consulted the Food and Health Bureau (FHB), we hereby provide supplementary information as follows.

The Central Government attaches great importance to the stable supply of agricultural by-products to Hong Kong as well as the quality and safety of such products. The Mainland has put in place a contingency mechanism to maintain a stable food supply to Hong Kong, which can cope with the normal annual demand as well as that under unforeseen circumstances. To ensure stability in food supply to Hong Kong, FHB has also established a liaison mechanism with the relevant Mainland authorities (the Ministry of Commerce, the State General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, etc.) for exchanging and collating information on matters such as food supply and safety, particularly in relation to food and public health incidents that may cause concern to both places.

Diversification of food sources and food variety helps maintain sufficient and stable supply of food. Since Hong Kong practises free trade, food products from around the world can be imported into Hong Kong for distribution according to market demand as long as they comply with the requirements of food hygiene and safety, such that consumers can choose from a wide variety of food products of different prices. In the event that accidents at nuclear plants have restricted food supply from nearby areas, there will still be other alternative food sources for Hong Kong.

A breakdown of sources of fresh and live food supply to Hong Kong is tabulated below:

Type of fresh and live food	Produced locally	Imported from the Mainland (from an area within 30 km from the Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station)	Imported from the Mainland (other areas)	Imported from overseas
Vegetables	2.5%	6.5%	83%	8%
Live pigs	6%	2%	92%	0%
Live cattle	0%	0%	100%	0%
Live goats	0%	0%	100%	0%
Live poultry	60%	3%	37%	0%
Live freshwater fish	4%	0%	93%	3%
Live marine fish	23%	11.5%		65.5%
Milk, milk products and frozen confections	27%	12.5%		60.5%

Among the live and fresh food supplied to Hong Kong, only about 7 percent of vegetables come from places within 30 kilometres of the Daya Bay Nuclear

Power Station. Nearly 90 percent of live marine fish and milk products are imported from places other than the Mainland. Therefore, in the unlikely event of a nuclear incident, there will still be sufficient and stable supply of live and fresh food to Hong Kong, and its impact on the overall food supply of Hong Kong will be minimal.

We understand that the public may be particularly concerned about the supply and safety of food in case of emergencies. The Government will ensure sufficient and stable food supply and monitor food safety. The Government of the Special Administrative Region will closely communicate with the various Mainland authorities through the established liaison mechanism, and collate information in relation to food and public health incidents which arouse concern, so as to ensure that accurate and timely information is provided to keep the public and the industry abreast of the latest situation to allay worries.

Yours sincerely,

Signed

(LEUNG Lap-fun)
for Secretary for Security

c.c. Food and Health Bureau