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20 November 1999

Mrs Percy Ma
Clerk to Panel on Administration of
Justice and Legal Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Ma,

LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services Meeting on 16 November 1999

I refer to my reply to a question from the Honourable Martin Lee, SC in which I stated that the Administration did not propose to take any special steps to arrange for the re-entry to Hong Kong of Mr LUI Kwan-chung and Mr CHAN Fung who were removed to the Mainland on 21 July 1999. In giving that answer I should have made clear that despite the absence of any special arrangements, Messrs. Lui and Chan would not be precluded from re-entering Hong Kong in a lawful manner in accordance with usual procedures.

The computer records of the Immigration Department show that both Mr Lui and Mr Chan had in fact returned to Hong Kong on two-way permits. Mr Lui arrived on 6 October 1999 and has overstayed since 7 November 1999. Mr Chan arrived on 20 October 1999 with limit of stay up to 20 November 1999. On 18 November 1999 Mr Lui surrendered to the Immigration Department after having applied for legal aid at the Legal Aid Department, to seek judicial review. The Legal Aid Department requested the Immigration Department not to repatriate Mr Lui to the Mainland, pending consideration by the Legal Aid Department of whether there are reasonable grounds to issue an ordinary legal aid certificate to him for the purpose of continuing the earlier court case. Mr Lui was released on recognizance that same day.

Yours sincerely,

(Ian Wingfield) Law Officer (Civil Law)

c.c. D of Legal Aid

S for S (Attn.: Mr Timothy Tong)
D of Imm (Attn.: Mr K C Cheuk)