

# Deacons

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By hand

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Constitutional Affairs Bureau  
Government Secretariat  
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9 March 2004

Dear Julina,

## Meeting between Election Committee Members and Constitutional Development Task Force

Thank you for your letter regarding procedures for the  
selection and election of the Chief Executive.

### 1. General views

As regards selection, I consider that Hong Kong  
should move in the direction indicated by Annex 1 to  
the Basic Law and Article 45(2) of the Basic Law  
towards selection by universal suffrage. I believe that  
this will add to the stability and prosperity of the SAR.  
My current view, based on the actual situation in Hong  
Kong, is that universal suffrage should be adopted in  
good time for the next election.

As regards nomination, I note that 2 methods have  
been proposed during the public discussions ie the  
'enhanced Legco' method and the 'enhanced Election  
Committee' method. I consider that the Election  
Committee as currently constituted is already

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sufficiently representative and need not be supplemented. I therefore propose that the nomination body for candidates for the office of Chief Executive continue to be the Election Committee in its current form.

In the past, the threshold for nomination has been set at the high level of 100 members. I consider that that number is too high. It discourages otherwise suitable candidates and gives the impression of a 'one horse race'. I therefore propose that the threshold for nomination as a candidate for the office of Chief Executive be reduced to 30 members of the Election Committee. This will enable alternative candidates to emerge, thereby giving electors a genuine choice from those available.

2. Points in the Task Force's list of questions.

I respond as follows:-

A1. I refer to my general views.

A2.(1) The "actual situation" has regard to the elements of the current political climate that are likely to continue in future. This includes matters such as the recent demonstrations. There is a need for the people of Hong Kong to have a say, and a responsibility, in the selection of the Chief Executive.

A2.(2) An immediate move to an "open door" policy where anyone could stand for selection would not be sufficiently gradual and might well result in disorder. The method proposed above would be both gradual and orderly. As Hong Kong develops, consideration can be given to a further gradual and orderly development to an "open door" policy, if there is a need.

A3. By the gradual introduction of a democratic system that suits Hong Kong's reality.

B1. (b).

B2. No.

B3. By the introduction of a government bill into Legco.

B4. Yes.

B5. Yes.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Mark J. Bradley