

Constitutional Development Task Force Secretariat
Constitutional Affairs Bureau
3/F Main Wing
Central Government Offices
Lower Albert Road
Central
Hong Kong

4 March 2004

Dear Sirs,

With reference to your request for expression of views on Item A2 "On the principles of 'actual situation' and 'gradual and orderly progress', I would suggest that the following lines should be pursued:

1. A study should be made of the political maturity of the population of Hong Kong in comparison with that of neighbouring parts of the region where elections on the "one man, one vote" basis are held - e.g. Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Malaysia, India etc. If the political maturity of the Hong Kong people is found to be lower than that of these other places, then consideration should be given to steps by which it could be raised to their level.
2. "Gradual and orderly progress" should be understood as the time needed to bring the political maturity of the Hong Kong people up to the level of the other neighbouring places mentioned where democratic elections are regularly held.

Yours truly,
(Signed)