

Constitutional Affairs Branch

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Constitutional Affairs Branch

I. Role of the Branch

Constitutional Affairs Branch (CAB) has two main areas of responsibility :

- A. to formulate policies on constitutional/electoral and human rights issues; and
- B. to oversee all matters related to the implementation of the Joint Declaration.

II. Main Programme Areas

- A. On the constitutional/electoral affairs, CAB deals with the development of the constitutional system in the run-up to 1997, having regard to convergence with the Basic Law. We handle both the policy aspect and the administration of the electoral system (including the organisation of voter registration and elections). The main focus on the human rights front is on post-enactment matters relating to the Bill of Rights.

[REDACTED]

III. Possible New Initiatives

A. Contacts with the Chinese

Of all secretariat branches (besides the PA's Office), CAB probably has the broadest range of contact with the Chinese. We are now adopting a more proactive approach in building up a working relationship between HKG and Chinese officials. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We propose to continue the existing pattern of contacts with a coordinated series of briefings for Chinese officials on the work of various branches of HKG. We are also looking at ways to expand the reciprocal programme of visits we are running with the Peking authorities which enable Hong Kong officials to visit Peking and other cities in China, and for Chinese officials to visit Hong Kong. The current programme provides for four inward and four outward visits each year and each delegation normally comprises seven or eight persons.

B. Peking Office

In line with our desire to increase contacts with the Chinese, we are considering the possibility of establishing an HKG office in Peking before 1997.

Article 22 of the Basic Law provides for the Special Administrative Region to establish such an office after 1997, but we consider that there might be an advantage in having the office up and running before that date, possibly by 1995. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Our present thinking is that the office would perform mainly liaison duties and provides logistic support for Hong Kong officials/VIPs visiting. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Annex

List of 'China-related' Briefs
prepared by Constitutional Affairs Branch

1. Constitutional Development I :
Developments of LegCo
2. Constitutional Development II :
Relationship between LegCo and the Executive
and the emergence of party politics
3. Constitutional Development III :
Electoral Review and Convergence Issues
4. Bill of Rights
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
7. Air Services Agreement
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
13. Localisation and the Appointment of Principal Officials
14. Localisation and Adaptation of Laws
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
17. Pension Safeguards
18. Basic Law
19. Land Commission
20. HKSARG Land Fund

Secretary for
Constitutional Affairs

CAB A 11/6/1

810 2070

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Briefs for the New Governor

I attach for your retention a set of briefs on CAB subjects which has now been despatched.



(Joshua C.K. LAW)
for Secretary for Constitutional Affairs

