



專責委員會(2)文件編號 : A147

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中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部衛生福利及食物局
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

Our ref.: HWF CR/1/9/581/03
Your ref.: CB2/SC2

Tel No.: (852) 2973 8102
Fax No.: (852) 2840 0467

11 March 2004

Miss Flora TAI
Clerk to Select Committee to inquire into the
handling of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
outbreak by the Government and the Hospital Authority
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road, Hong Kong
(Fax: 2248 2011)

Dear Miss TAI,

**Select Committee to inquire into the handling of
the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by
the Government and the Hospital Authority**

Thank you for your letter of 18 February. The information requested has been set out in the attached Appendix SC09-15N-EW. — A145 to A148

Kindly note that some of the documents attached contain detailed medical histories/conditions, travel and/or contact histories of patients infected with SARS. We should be grateful if you would give due regard to the nature of such information in any further disclosure of the documents.

Yours sincerely,

(Patrick T. K. NIP)

for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Encl.

c.c. D of Health (Attn: Mr John LEUNG)

**Information provided in response to letter of 18 February from
the Clerk to Select Committee to inquire into the handling of
the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak by
the Government and the Hospital Authority**

(a) Whether Dr LEUNG Pak-yin, JP, Deputy Director of Health, attended the meeting of the Task Force on SARS on 26 March 2003, as the evidence given by Dr LEUNG at the hearing on 17 February 2004 contradicted with the information provided by your Bureau (please see Appendix C to paper ~~SC04-15P-EY~~);

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Dr LEUNG Pak-yin has reconfirmed his attendance at all the meetings of the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau Task Force on SARS. ~~SC09-170-EY~~ Replacements of pages 2 and 3 of Annex C to ~~SC04-15P-EY~~, the Paper on *Health, Welfare and Food Bureau's SARS Task Force, Chief Executive's Steering Committee and Interdepartmental Action Coordinating Committee*, are attached.

(b) A copy of the SARS case questionnaire of Amoy Gardens index patient (YY);

(c) A copy of the SARS case questionnaire of YY's brother, who was admitted to United Christian Hospital (UCH) on 24 March 2003;

(d) The date when the Department of Health (DH) found out YY had resided in Amoy Gardens;

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On 23 March 2003, the New Territories East Regional Office (NTERO) of DH was notified of a case admitted to Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) which later turned out to be the Amoy Gardens index patient (YY). The DH Team at PWH followed up on the case on the same day and completed a case questionnaire on this patient in the afternoon. A copy of the completed case questionnaire is at Annex 1. NTERO of DH managed to contact the father of YY on 24 March 2003 and was told that all family contacts were asymptomatic.

As part of DH's contact tracing work, the department contacted the father again on 25 March 2003 and was informed that YY's brother had developed fever and cough and was admitted to UCH on 24 March 2003. NTERO immediately referred the case of the brother to Kowloon Regional Office (KRO) for further investigation. KRO investigated the case of YY's brother and conducted contact tracing on the same day (i.e. 25 March

2003) upon which the brother identified YY as one of his household contacts at his residence in Amoy Gardens Block E. A copy of the case questionnaire completed on the brother is at Annex 2.

- (e) *The minutes prepared by Dr Thomas TSANG proposing the evacuation of Block E residents of Amoy Gardens under a removal order and the circumstance under which the minutes were produced for discussion* — A147

Dr Thomas TSANG did not make any submission to the Director of Health proposing for the evacuation of the Block E residents on 1 April 2003. However, Dr Tsang did submit to the then Director of Health a minute dated 30 March 2003 recommending the isolation of Block E residents of the Amoy Gardens. A copy of the submission is at Annex 3.

- ~~(f) *Documents leading to the decision to amend the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (Cap.141)* — A148~~

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Please refer to page 7 of Annex B and page 6 of Annex G to ~~SC04-15P-EY~~, the Paper on *Health, Welfare and Food Bureau's SARS Task Force, Chief Executive's Steering Committee and Interdepartmental Action Coordinating Committee*, which, respectively, are the records of the 5th meeting of the Task Force on SARS held on 26 March 2003 at which the then Director of Health recommended a basket of public health measures (including the amendment of Cap.141), and the notes of CESC meeting held on 26 March 2003 recording discussions on the matter.

D of H *I have been following the situation in Amoy Garden closely and I agree with your assessment*

*Mulhau
11.00 pm
30/3/2003*

The outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome at Block E of Amoy Garden, Ngau Tau Kok, is found to have affected more than 20% of the households in that block.

2. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome is a viral infection that can be transmitted from person to person via close contact with an infected person or contact with fomites containing virus particles on contaminated surfaces. It is an infectious disease listed under Schedule One of Cap. 141, Quarantine and Prevention of Infectious Diseases Ordinance.

3. In view of the extent of infected households at Block E of Amoy Garden and the potential for spreading the disease to the wider community, I am of the opinion that, to prevent the spread of SARS, there is sufficient ground to isolate Block E of Amoy Garden under Section 24 of Prevention and the Spread of Infectious Diseases Regulations, Cap. 141. For your agreement please.



Con CM
30.3.2003