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14 October 2003

Mr Henry TANG Ying-yen, GBS, JP  
Financial Secretary  
Financial Secretary's Private Office  
12/F, West Wing  
Central Government Offices  
Lower Albert Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Mr TANG,

**Panel on Financial Affairs  
Follow-up to special meeting on 11 October 2003**

**Hong Kong Harbour Fest**

As directed by Hon Ambrose LAU, Chairman of the Panel, I write to seek the Administration's clarification on the Rolling Stones' participation in the Hong Kong Harbour Fest.

At the special meeting on 11 October 2003, the Administration advised the Panel that the Rolling Stones had declined to sign the contract and that the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong (AmCham) had then decided on 10 October 2003 to take the contract off the table. However, the Reuters reported on 13 October that the Rolling Stones Tour Director had said in a statement that "We have received the deposit money from Hong Kong and the band's lawyers have a signed contract having concluded negotiations last week" (copy attached).

The Administration is requested to clarify on the following issues:

- (a) whether there is any signed contract between the AmCham/the Government and the Rolling Stones in respect of the latter's participation in the Hong Kong Harbour Fest; if there is, when the contract was signed; and
- (b) the cause of the discrepancy between the Administration's advice given to the Panel on 11 October and the Rolling Stones Tour Director's statement reported by Reuters on 13 October.

I should be grateful if you would provide me with the Administration's written response (in both Chinese and English) **by 17 October 2003**. Please forward the soft copy of the response to Ms May LEUNG at [mleung@legco.gov.hk](mailto:mleung@legco.gov.hk).

Please note that unless the Administration raises objection, the paper provided will be made available to the media and members of the public, and placed in the Library of the Legislative Council. The paper will also be made available on the Web Site of the Council on the Internet.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Salumi CHAN)  
Clerk to Panel

Encl.

c.c. Hon Ambrose LAU Hon-chuen, GBS, JP  
Chairman of the LegCo Panel on Financial Affairs

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Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology  
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Mr Stephen IP Shu-kwan, GBS, JP  
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Rolling Stones say Hong Kong shows will go ahead

LOS ANGELES, Oct 13 (Reuters) - In a surprise turnaround, the Rolling Stones said on Monday they would play two shows in Hong Kong next month, even though the local promoters announced last week they had withdrawn their offer to the British group.

"We have received the deposit money from Hong Kong and the band's lawyers have a signed contract having concluded negotiations last week," Rolling Stones tour director Michael Cohl said in a statement.

"This will be the first time in their 40-year history that The Rolling Stones have performed in Hong Kong and they look forward being part of the 'Harbourfest' festival."

The Hong Kong Harbour Fest, which will run every weekend from Oct. 17 through Nov. 9, is designed to relaunch the territory as a tourist destination after the economic disaster of this year's deadly SARS epidemic. It is being organized by the American Chamber of Commerce and a government-funded investment promotion unit. The band is scheduled to play at a 13,000 seat arena on Nov. 7 and 9.

The Rolling Stones had initially been listed on the bill when the event was announced several months ago, but then their name was removed from the official Web site. Last Friday, the organizers issued an unusual statement saying the band had been unable to commit to their firm offer in a timely manner. "We have, therefore, decided to withdraw our offer," they said.

Even the Rolling Stones' own Web site announced that "The Licks World tour has ended!" following their Oct. 2 show in Zurich, the final stop of their extended European leg.

The band was supposed to play two shows in Hong Kong last March, but the SARS epidemic forced it to scrap both dates as well as what would have also been their first two shows in mainland China. A band spokeswoman had no information as to whether the Shanghai and Beijing stops would be rescheduled.

Other Western acts on the Harbour Fest bill include Canadian rocker Neil Young, funk musician Prince, Irish boy-band Westlife and guitarist Carlos Santana.