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16 October 2003

Clerk to the LegCo Panel on Home Affairs
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Joanne Mak)

By fax: 2509 9055
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Dear Ms Mak,

Follow-up to Panel Meeting on 9 October 2003

Thank you for your letter of 13 October.

China's initial report under the ICESCR, of which our second report forms a part, is scheduled for hearing in the spring of 2005. We have not been advised of the precise dates but the session will run from 25 April to 13 May of that year.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has yet to set a date for the hearing of China's Second Report under the Child Convention, of which our Initial Report forms a part. We have received informal indications of a possible hearing in 2005 and note that the list of countries to be heard in the January session is not yet full. Recently, the Committee has held three sessions a year (in January, May and September). We do not know if that pattern will continue. But we are marking our diaries on the assumption that it will. We will let you know as soon as we have any firm information.

Yours sincerely,

(John Dean)
for Secretary for Home Affairs