

Amnesty International Media Advisory

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Enclosed is the Executive Summary of Amnesty International's comments on the Consultation Document issued on 9 April 1997 by the Office of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

Amnesty International makes seven major recommendations to the HKSAR authorities:

- to publish an official and detailed explanation of why each section of the ordinances for which amendments are proposed are seen as contravening the Basic Law;
- to state publicly that it is satisfied that all Hong Kong laws not already declared to contravene the Basic Law are in conformity with that law;
- to extend the consultation period, to allow for consideration of the explanation mentioned above;
- to ensure that no legislation passed in pursuance of Article 23 of the Basic Law infringes on the exercise of basic human rights;
- to reconsider the repeal of three sections of the Bill of Rights;
- to redraft entirely the proposed amendments to the Societies Ordinance and the Public Order Ordinance

In addition to Amnesty International's comments, the Hong Kong Section of Amnesty International has written today to Chief Executive-Designate, Mr Tung Chee-hwa, expressing the Section's concerns about the proposed amendments.

The full text of Amnesty International's 17-page commentary on the proposed amendments is available from Amnesty International in Hong Kong and at the organization's offices worldwide. The commentary is entitled *Hong Kong - Basic Rights at Risk: Comments on the HKSAR Consultation Document of April 1997 - AI Index ASA 19/06/97*. **The document is embargoed for 0800 hrs GMT on 30 April 1997.**

For a copy of the document or for further information, please contact:

**- Catherine Baber, Amnesty International Hong Kong Regional Office:
Phone: (+852) 2385 7187- Fax: 2782 1143 - Email: cbaber@amnesty.org**

- Amnesty International Hong Kong Section - Phone: (+852) 2300 1250 - fax: 2782 0583

- Pierre Robert, Amnesty International, International Secretariat, London, UK.

Phone: (+44) 171 413 5663 - Fax: (+44) 171 956 1157 - Email: probert@amnesty.org