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8 December 1997

Ms Joyce Wong **Director of Practitioners Affairs** The Law Society of Hong Kong 1403 Swire House. 11 Chater Road, Central, Hong Kong

By Fax & By Post

Dear Ms Wong,

Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance (Cap 319)

When I wrote to you on 3 November on the subject of reciprocal enforcement of judgments, I promised to keep the Law Society informed of the results of our enquiries with foreign jurisdictions designated under the Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance (Cap 319).

Since 3 November, we have received further substantive replies, from New Zealand, Israel and Germany.

The Consulate General of New Zealand has confirmed that judgments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR") can be recognised and enforced in New Zealand in the same manner as applied to Hong Kong judgments prior to 1 July 1997.

The Consulate General of Israel has confirmed that judgments from the courts of the HKSAR will be recognised and enforced in Israel after 1 July 1997 provided that reciprocity is maintained by the HKSAR courts.

The Consulate General of Germany has indicated that in view of the continued designation of Germany under the HKSAR's legislation (Cap.319), the German Government presumes that German courts will continue to recognise and enforce judgments of the HKSAR courts.

In summary the replies received from the above countries appear to confirm that reciprocity of treatment is maintained between HKSAR and the respective countries on reciprocal enforcement of judgments. You will appreciate, however, that the application and interpretation of Cap 319 in relation to judgments from these countries is a matter for the HKSAR courts.

Yours sincerely,

(David Little)

Law Officer (International Law)