



US urged to stop meddling in HK affairs

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HONG KONG — The Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong voiced concern and displeasure on Monday over the interference by the US Consulate General into the SAR's affairs.

A spokesman for the office also called for a cessation of such interference during an interview with the China News Service.

The statements came in response to a series of US State Department cables released by Wikileaks.

In the most recent release of 134,000 documents by the online whistle blower, nearly 1,000 were related to Hong Kong.

The cables mirror the tremendous interests shown by the US Consulate General in Hong Kong's political system and in its social problems, the spokesman noted.

He added that "interfering opinions" had been put forward to the SAR government at frequent meetings between US diplomats and some particular local figures, where ideas were exchanged.

These "figures" to which the documents refer are cited as Hong Kong's "Gang of Four" — namely Chan Fang On-sang, a long-time politician; Martin Lee Chu-ming, founding chairman of the Democratic Party; media tycoon Jimmy Lai Chee-ying; and Joseph Zen Ze-kiun, cardinal of the Catholic Church in Hong Kong.

As the cables suggested, the four have been regularly invited either in public or secretly as guests at luncheons and at dinner parties held by the US Consulate General.

During these sessions the consulate gathered views and intelligence about Hong Kong.

Chan, who served as head of the civil service before and after the city's handover and who has a close connection with Joseph R. Donovan Jr. — the former top US diplomat in Hong Kong — once urged Washington to mount pressure on Beijing about universal suffrage, and for the US to espouse Hong Kong's constitutional development.

"The conduct of the US has gone beyond the functions that are stated in the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and other international laws. We have justification to be concerned and discontented. We demand that the US stop erring," said the spokesman.

"It has to be noted that the world is faced with countless important and pressing problems that require China and the US to enhance cooperation. Hong Kong serves a bridging role to promote that relationship. Therefore, we hope that the US ditches the 'cold-war-style' way of thinking, and that it stops playing petty political games in Hong Kong."

The office has already made clear its concerns to the consulate, saying that it is strongly opposed to any external forces interfering in Hong Kong affairs.

The office also demanded the consulate "stringently adhere to international laws and norms that have been widely accepted, and not meddle with Hong Kong's internal affairs in any form".

The demand also called on the US to focus its mission in Hong Kong on the promotion of cooperation in the areas of trade, culture, technology and people.

The spokesman added that interference into other countries' internal affairs in any form is unwelcome.