

Adaptation continues

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The Government will continue preparing legislation to converge with the post-1997 mini-constitution despite China's insistence on going it alone with the changes, a senior government official has said.

The Secretary for Constitutional Affairs, Nicholas Ng, said the Government will continue to discuss the programme of adaptation of laws with China in the Joint Liaison Group.

This is despite Guo Fengmin, the former Chinese JLG leader, having said the Chinese government would adapt the laws on its own because it is a matter of sovereignty.

Guo had said China could not accept the British proposal for "midnight legislation" which would involve the pre-1997 legislature passing amendments to colonial laws which would take effect from midnight of June 30, 1997.

Despite repeated requests from legislators on the constitu-

tional affairs panel, Ng would not say what alternatives to "midnight legislation" the British team is proposing to the JLG. He said the two sides are discussing ways to make the laws compatible with the Basic Law and the Government will continue to prepare the adaptation programme.

"Whatever the solution we come up with regarding the adaptation of laws, it is still necessary to work out precisely what changes should be made," he said.