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Action ruled out on policy translations

THE Government has no immediate intention to introduce measures requiring that exemption clauses in insurance contracts be translated into Chinese.

Speaking to the Legislative Council yesterday, the Financial Secretary, Sir Piers Jacobs, said the Government believed self-regulation was a better solution than legislation in this area.

He said it was recognised that as a matter of good market practice, insurance contracts should also be available in Chinese, and the insurance industry was working towards this.

"To this end, Chinese translations have been made of the standard policy forms for motor ve-

hicle and employees' compensation insurance, and of course, the translations would include exemption clauses where appropriate," he said.

Sir Piers said it was an on-going task to translate all insurance documents into Chinese but he could not say when the task would be completed.

"As far as the Government action is concerned, I consider as long as the insurance industry is making good progress, there is no case for Government intervention," he said.

Sir Piers also noted that the insurance industry in Hongkong had itself recently adopted statements of practice for general and life insurance business.