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## A GREAT MOMENT!



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**President Jiang Zemin arrives in Hong Kong on the afternoon of June 30 for the handover ceremony. This is the first time for China's top official to land there since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.**



**Zhuo Lin, widow of the late Deng Xiaoping, was also present at the historic ceremony. Deng was the mastermind of the "one country, two systems" policy, which paves the way for Hong Kong's smooth transition.**

*Photos by Wang Yan*



# Beijing Review

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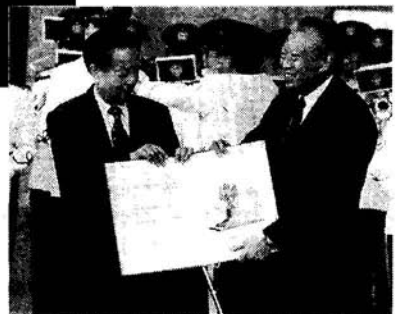
H I G H L I G H T S

## Special Issue for Hong Kong's Return



At 0:00 on July 1, the national flag of the People's Republic of China and the HKSAR flag were hoisted as a band played the national anthem of the People's Republic of China. China was finally resuming the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong. More than 1.2 billion Chinese, including Hong Kong residents, rejoiced at the happy event.

To cover the historic moment, *Beijing Review* dispatched its Editor-in-Chief Lin Liangqi and its Art Editor Pi Dawei to Hong Kong. They and the other Beijing-based editors publish this special issue that, we hope, readers will love.—Ed.



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# A MOMENT OF EPOCH-MAKING SIGNIFICANCE

by Our Staff Reporter Lin Liangqi

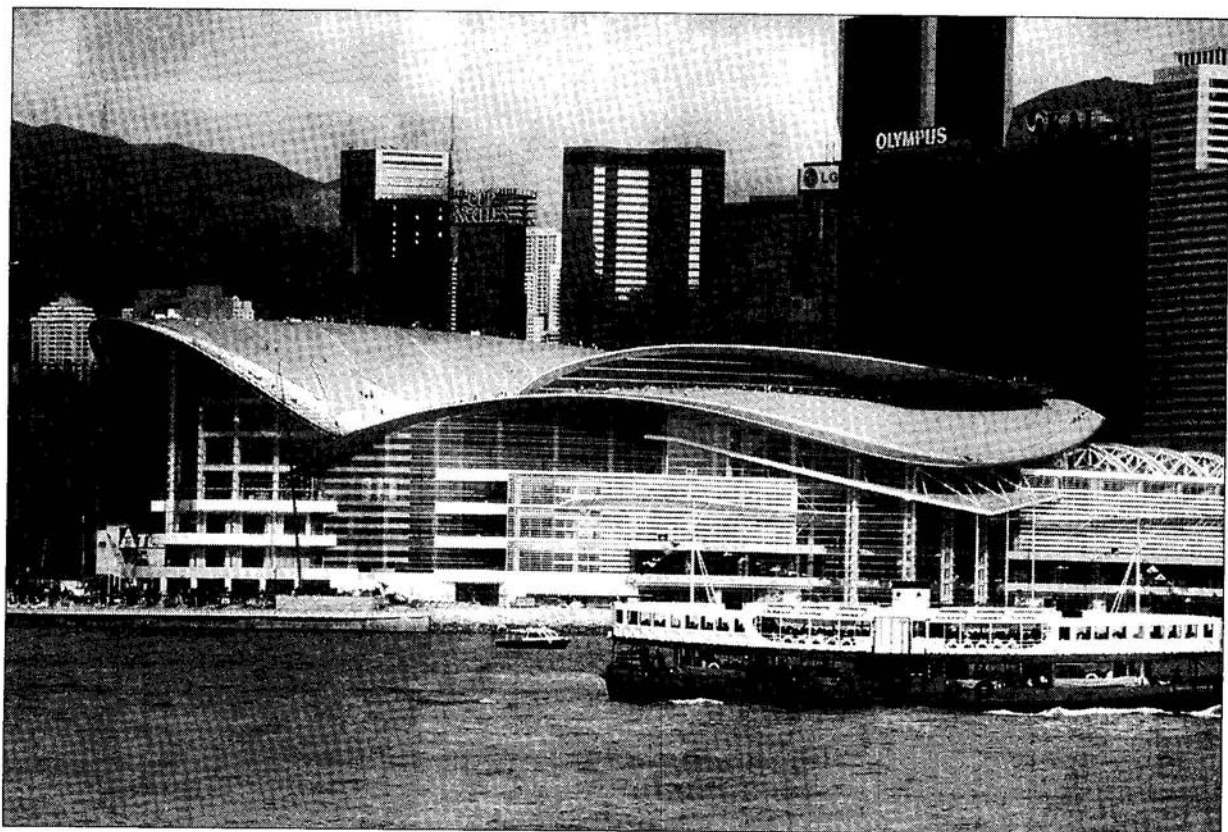
**H**istory stood still at this point of time; but history also turned over to a new page. At zero hour on July 1, 1997, the five-star red flag of China and the flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) rose slowly and solemnly to the top of their respective poles at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, marking the return

of Hong Kong to the motherland—the People's Republic of China. The event ushered in a new era for Hong Kong and the interior areas to develop hand-in-hand. The lowering of the British Union Jack meant the end to an old era—British colonial rule in Hong Kong.

## Hong Kong Back Home

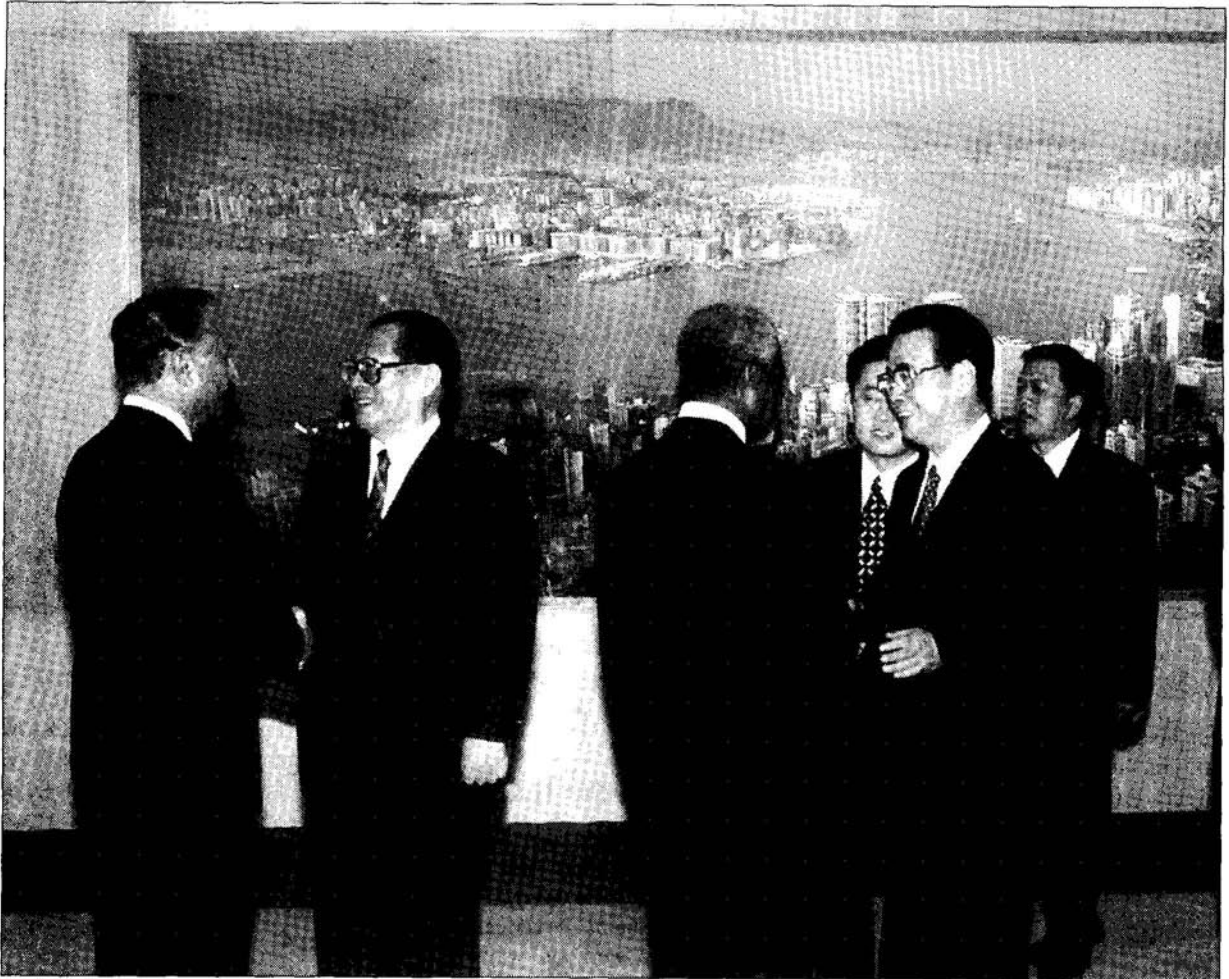
Hong Kong on June 30 was a magnet for the world. The Hong Kong handover ceremony was to be held. At 17:16, the Chinese govern-

ment delegation led by Jiang Zemin, president of the People's Republic of China, arrived at Kai Tak Airport on a special plane. Twelve minutes later, Jiang Zemin got off the plane with his left foot touching land first. Reporters from all over the world lost no time in recording the historic moment with their clicking cameras. Everyone present was well aware that Jiang was the first top Chinese leader to set foot on Hong Kong since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.



The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, site of the handover ceremony.

PI DAWEI



WANG YAN

Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng meet government officials from some 40 countries attending the handover ceremony.

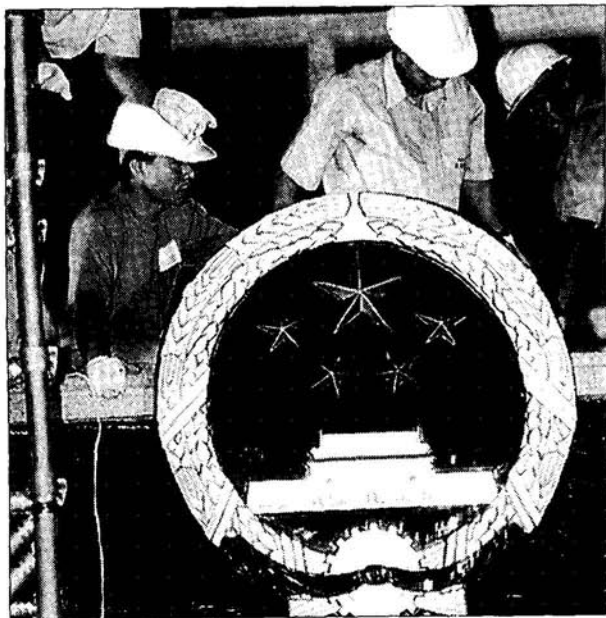
**Midnight.** The new extension of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center was brightly lit. In the 5th Floor Hall, more than 4,000 people were seated in a mood of serious expectancy. They included government officials from some 40 countries, secretary-generals of over 30 international organizations, and public figures of Hong Kong and China's hinterland. They came for the handover ceremony sponsored by the Chinese and British governments, eye-witnessing the transfer of government power in Hong Kong. Also present were more than 400 reporters from all over the world. They were ready to record the historic event with cameras, pens and radio cassette recorders.

**23:47.** Major leaders of China and

the United Kingdom were seated on both sides of the front row on the rostrum. The Chinese side included President Jiang Zemin, Premier Li Peng, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, CPC Central Military Commission Vice-Chairman Zhang Wannian, and HKSAR Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa. The British side included Prince Charles, Prime Minister Tony Blair, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, Military Representative Charles Guthrie, and Chris Patten, the 28th and the last British governor of Hong Kong. Prince Charles addressed the handover ceremony, announcing that the United Kingdom was to end its administration over Hong Kong in accordance with the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

**23:59:15.** The British national flag and the old flag of Hong Kong were brought down to the playing of the British national anthem. It had been 156 years and five months and four days since the British forcibly took control of Hong Kong, Chinese territory, on January 26, 1841.

**0:00 on July 1.** The national flag of the People's Republic of China and the HKSAR flag were hoisted as a band played the national anthem of the People's Republic of China. President Jiang Zemin, walking steadily and robustly, mounted the platform on the Chinese side. He announced with a loud and clear voice: From now on, China will resume exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, and Hong Kong will enter a brand new era! Prolonged



photos by LI KAIYUAN

Left: Minutes before July 1, the British "crown" insignia is removed from the former Hong Kong government office building.  
Right: At 0:00 on July 1, the emblem of the People's Republic of China is placed on the HKSAR government office building.

applause resounded around the hall. At this time, the Chinese People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison began to march in for the military handover with the British army garrison. The national flags of the People's Republic of China rose in the 14 barracks formerly owned by the British garrison. A national flag-hoisting ceremony was held also in the Office of the Commissioner of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR. Almost at the same time, Hong Kong police on duty removed British "crown" insignia from their hats and put on the bauhinia, the insignia of the HKSAR. At this moment, Hong Kong and the rest of China as well as the whole world acclaimed Hong Kong's homeward return and an end to the 150-odd-year humiliation to the Chinese nation, a great moment which the Chinese had dreamed of for generations. The spell of excitement generated by the historic moment for the Chinese at home and overseas, and its influence and impact on China and the world at large are beyond description. The moment will go down in history, and the Chinese will bear in mind this

moment for ever.

## The Birth of the HKSAR

British Prince Charles and ex-governor Chris Patten left Hong Kong aboard the British royal yacht *Britannia* after the handover ceremony. While they were on way back home, the Chinese were moving forward.

### 1:30 on the morning of July 1.

An emotional and momentous ceremony was held on the 7th floor of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center to inaugurate the HKSAR government. More than 4,000 Chinese and foreign guests and public figures attended the ceremony to witness how the central government implements its policy of "one country, two systems". They included British and American diplomats stationed in Hong Kong.

1:32. President Jiang Zemin rose to his feet, announcing loudly: "Now I announce the official establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China!" This announcement drew prolonged, warm and excited applause.

This was followed by the swear-

ing-in ceremony for the HKSAR government. Administered by Premier Li Peng and witnessed by the central government delegation, Tung Chee Hwa was sworn in as the HKSAR's first chief executive. He raised his right hand and swore in *putonghua* (standard Chinese pronunciation): "I, upon assuming the office of the chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, pledge to uphold the Basic Law of the HKSAR of the People's Republic of China (PRC), be loyal to the HKSAR of the PRC, fulfill my duties wholeheartedly, abide by laws, be clean and honest, serve the HKSAR, and be responsible for the PRC and the HKSAR." As soon as Tung completed his declaration, Premier Li Peng shook hands with him as a token of congratulation and confidence.

Administered by Premier Li Peng, 23 major HKSAR government officials (headed by Anson Chan) were also sworn.

Administered by Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa, 14 members of the Executive Council (headed by Chung Sze Yuen), 59 members of the



Provisional Legislative Council (headed by President Rita Fan), and the judges of the Court of Final Appeal and the High Court (headed by first Chief Justice Andrew KN Li of the Court of Final Appeal) were also sworn in separately. They read out their declarations in *putonghua*. As the judges include both Chinese and foreigners, their part was in both *putonghua* and English. Their oath was about the same in terms of content with that of Tung Chee Hwa, with the exception that the oath of the judges included "safeguarding the rule of law and upholding justice with the spirit of fearlessness, impartiality, selflessness and honesty."

The oath-taking rituals ended in warm applause. Premier Li Peng addressed the ceremony. On behalf of the central people's government of the People's Republic of China, Premier Li expressed warmest congratulation on the inauguration of the

HKSAR and the HKSAR government. He hoped the HKSAR government would live up to the expectations of the Chinese, Hong Kong residents included, and scrupulously fulfill its duty placed on it by history and the Chinese nation.

Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa also took a floor. He said with emotion: "This is a momentous and historic day: July 1, 1997. After 156 years of separation, Hong Kong and China are whole again. This is a solemn, stately, and proud moment. We are here today to announce to the world, in our language, that Hong Kong has entered into a new era." Waving his right fist in the air, Tung continued: "The most precious possession of any nation or any people is the ability to chart one's own future, to be master of one's destiny." He said: "For the first time in history, we, the people of Hong Kong, will be masters of our own destiny." Tung

vowed: "I will carry out my duties with honesty, sincerity and determination. I will lead the 6.5 million people of Hong Kong, along with our indomitable spirit, toward the future. As part of China, we will move forward as one inseparable nation with two distinct systems." Tung ended his speech also in warm and prolonged applause.

After the ceremony, central government leaders present on the occasion had a picture taken with the HKSAR government members involved in the oath-taking.

2:45. The Provisional Legislative Council (PLC) held its first plenary session following the establishment of the HKSAR government and the swearing-in ceremony for PLC members. The PLC session adopted the Hong Kong Reunification Ordinance at the third reading. The bill, tabled by Elsie Leung Oi-sie, Secretary of Justice, was immediately endorsed



ZHOU CHAORONG

Reporters record first day activities of the PLA Hong Kong Garrison.



by Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa and thus became a law for the smooth transfer of people involved in the legal, judiciary and public service.

The HKSAR government is now in smooth operation!

## A Better Future

Chris Patten is gone with what he claimed to be a sad mood. He should feel sad because he has always been trying to stem the rolling wheels of history. As he left Hong Kong, it rained heavily. Hong Kong newspapers said he left in cold wind and rain. This was symbolic because he was still misleading the public even on the eve of his departure. He said the 4,000-member PLA Hong Kong Garrison is too many in number, and there is no need for them to have armored vehicles. Apparently, he has a short memory. During British colonial rule over Hong Kong, the British army garrison boasted at most 30,000-40,000 men with armored

vehicles. When compared with the former British army garrison, the Chinese PLA garrison is numerically inferior. Moreover, the Chinese government has proclaimed time and again that the PLA Hong Kong Garrison which the Chinese government sent to be stationed in Hong Kong is a symbol of China's resumption of exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, and the HKSAR will be charged with ensuring social security in the region. Chris Patten knows all this. As a politician, he just has to create trouble even one day before his departure. When the foreign ministers attending the handover ceremony, who expressed their concern on Chinese troops in Hong Kong, were told all this, they expressed their understanding right away.

Chris Patten has created many troubles in the five years of his service as the Hong Kong governor. Confusion resulting from his trouble-making efforts made many people in the world, who were ignorant of truth, adopt the wait-and-see attitude toward Hong Kong's future. What kind of future will Hong Kong have? Tung Chee Hwa answered the question in the press conference held on the afternoon of July 2: "I have full confidence. You are welcome to make an evaluation of me in five years." As a matter of fact, there is no need to wait for five years. The



CHEN XIAOBO

Some 30,000 Hong Kong residents and some 3,000 Buddhist monks hold a Buddhist mass to bless Hong Kong's return to the motherland. Here, 40 monks from Hong Kong and the hinterland recite Buddhist scriptures.



Street celebrations in Hong Kong.

ZHOU CHAORONG





central government and the HKSAR government have laid down a solid framework for continued prosperity and development in Hong Kong.

First of all, there is the guarantee from the Basic Law. In his speech at the ceremony inaugurating the HKSAR, Premier Li Peng told the world: "As of today, the Basic Law of the HKSAR of the People's Republic of China takes effect...I hope that you (HKSAR government officials) will, in the spirit of loving China and loving Hong Kong, implement the Basic Law in real earnest, scrupulously fulfill your duties and live up to the expectations of the people." In his speech at the ceremony for the establishment of the HKSAR, President Jiang Zemin said: "The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall be observed not only in Hong Kong, but also by all departments of the central government as well as the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government. No central government department or locality may or will be allowed to interfere in the affairs which, under the Basic Law, should be administered by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on its own." The statements of the two senior Chinese leaders reveal to the whole world the unswerving Chinese determination to implement the HKSAR Basic Law, which constitutes the most important guarantee for continued prosperity and development in Hong Kong.

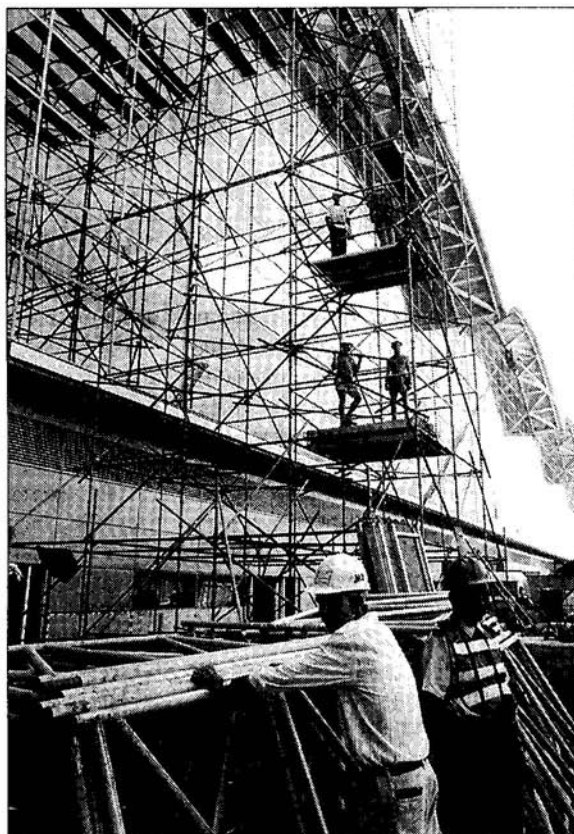
Secondly, there is the guarantee from state policy. Also in his speech at the ceremony for the establishment of the HKSAR, President Jiang Zemin reaffirmed principles and policies formulated in accordance with the state policy of "one country, two systems." He pointed out: "These policies and guidelines have been formulated by the central people's government after careful consideration of the need to safeguard both the immediate interests of the Hong Kong compatriots and the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation. Their adherence serves Hong Kong,

the entire nation and the world as well. Therefore, there is no reason whatsoever to change them. Here I would like to reaffirm that 'one country, two systems,' 'Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong' and 'a high degree of autonomy' will remain unchanged for 50 years. This is a long-term basic principle of ours."

Thirdly, there is the support from the central government and various localities in China. President Jiang Zemin pointed out that Hong Kong's return to the motherland creates a new epoch for joint development of Hong Kong and the hinterland. "With the continuous advance of China's modernization drive, Hong Kong's economic link with the hinterland will become even closer and its role as a bridge will be increasingly enhanced. This in turn will give a stronger impetus to Hong Kong's economic growth."

Fourthly, Hong Kong itself boasts many advantages, including excellent geographical location, a free port policy, fairly perfect legal system, high-quality civil servants, and effective economic and municipal government management. All these combine to provide Hong Kong with favorable conditions for further economic development. After Hong Kong's return to the motherland, these favorable conditions will be better exploited.

Fifthly, the HKSAR government officials have high sense of duty and responsibility. They know what the



PI DAWEI

Construction of the New Hong Kong Airport is in full swing.

Hong Kong residents are most concerned about, what they are urgently demanding, and how to solve these problems, how to establish a long-term goal to attain, and how to work for a new era of vigorous economic and social development. With resolute belief and a down-to-earth attitude, they are leading the Hong Kong people, who are very creative, to work for a better tomorrow.

At the ceremony for the establishment of the HKSAR on July 1, President Jiang Zemin presented the HKSAR government with an inscription bearing his written words: "A Brighter Future for Hong Kong". This best wish from President Jiang is also the best description of Hong Kong's future. As a matter of fact, most people who attended the handover ceremony, Chinese or foreigners, believed Hong Kong will have a more splendid future. ■



# Nation Welcomes Hong Kong Home

**T**he nationwide anticipation and ecstasy over Hong Kong's return reached a climax at midnight June 30, when the Union Jack was lowered and the Chinese national flag raised in Hong Kong.

Tens of millions of people across the country celebrated the return of Hong Kong with a wide range of activities, many lasting until dawn of July 1.

The 100,000 people gathered at Tiananmen Square in Beijing counted down in unison the last 10 seconds of June 30, cheering and applauding as they watched live coverage of the handover ceremony in Hong Kong.

Beijing Mayor Jia Qinglin said: "The return of Hong Kong to the motherland is a solemn time for the Chinese nation to wash away its humiliation of the past century; a brilliant time to open a new historical era; and a great time for hundreds of millions of Chinese people to march towards unification and prosperity."

The world's largest square was decorated with more than 100,000 colored and thousands of traditional Chinese red lanterns. Following the handover ceremony, the sky was lit up with dazzling fireworks.

Mass celebrating parties were also held in the Workers' Stadium and the Great Hall of the People, attended by top leaders and people from all walks of life.

In Shanghai, China's largest economic center, over 10,000 singers gathered along the Huangpu River to welcome Hong Kong back with songs. The nation's financial capital was festooned with 800,000 lanterns and 2 million flower pots.

In Shanghai Bund Park, set up by British imperialists and notorious at

one time for a notice board saying "No Chinese and Dogs Allowed", about 2,500 people sitting in front of the countdown clock on June 30 cheered when the city's bell tower struck 12 midnight.

With excited faces illuminated by fireworks, people beat drums, performed a dragon lantern dance and waved thousands of small flags as they sang the national anthem.

In North China's Tianjin city, 1 million people divided in 60,000 groups joined in a long-distance run to celebrate the return of Hong Kong.

At midnight, as fireworks burst in the sky, people waving national flags took to the streets to perform dragon dances and other traditional Chinese dances.

In Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, hundreds of people celebrated the event by joining a race around the city. Torch in hand, the joggers formed a moving fire-dragon which drew applause from spectators along the route.

In Jinghai Monastery, where the Treaty of Nanking, which led to the cession of Hong Kong, was signed in 1842, the city's mayor struck a giant bell 155 times at midnight amid cheers, symbolizing the end of 155 years of national humiliation.

Guangzhou, capital of the prosperous Guangdong Province adjacent to Hong Kong, was still buzzing with life at this hour of the night, as thousands of fragrant fresh flowers and bright neon lights brought residents to the streets for a walk or to take photos.

In the city's Tianhe Stadium, 30,000 people attended a gala party with singing and dancing which lasted till dawn.

The city of Dongguan, where the

Chinese rose against British invaders by burning large quantities of opium confiscated from British traders 158 years ago, was awash in a sea of colorful banners, balloons, flowers and reverberating fireworks and thundering drumbeats.

The people in southwest China's city of Chongqing, which became the country's fourth municipality directly under the central government in May, had one more reason to celebrate. A motorcade of 1,997 locally-produced motorcycles ran 10 kms through major streets.

When the clock struck twelve, dozens of ships on the Yangtze River blew whistles to greet the Hong Kong homecoming.

Shenzhen, neighboring Hong Kong, was immersed with thousands of flower pots and banners. A total of 100,000 firecrackers, in 1,997 varieties, were set off in 71 separate launching sites during the 70-minute party, the largest celebration ever held in this special economic zone.

In east China's Fuzhou, 20,000 people gathered in the Provincial Sport Center to watch fireworks, a luxury normally prohibited by the municipal government.

The long-awaited homecoming of Hong Kong also boosted sales of color TV sets in the city. "Many people are buying new TVs to watch the live coverage of the homecoming celebrations," a sales girl at an electronic shop said. "We are selling more TVs than during the Spring Festival (the most important traditional festival in China)."

In east China's Xiamen City, which is separated from Taiwan by only a strip of sea, people lit fireworks on the shore close to the Jinmen Islands so the islanders could see them.

A man named Chen from a Taiwan shipping company said the return of Hong Kong is a joyous occasion for all Chinese around the world. If the two sides across the Taiwan Straits are reunited, miracles will happen, he added.

People from different ethnic groups in dozens of cities in Xinjiang



Count down to history.

XUE CHANG

Dancing the night away at Tiananmen Square.

XUE CHANG

Performers sing on a dragon stage.

XU XIANGJUN

Crowds cheer Hong Kong's return as hundreds of thousands of colorful balloons are released.

XU XIANGJUN

Uyghur Autonomous Region greeted the historic moment with simultaneous singing and dancing.

In Urumqi, the regional capital, thousands of people swarmed to seven spots to watch the colorful performances given by members of various ethnic groups. Twenty-thousand firecrackers were sent into the sky at the stroke of midnight.

A monument was set up in Lijiang Prefecture of southwest China's Yunnan Province, to express gratitude of the local people to their Hong Kong compatriots. In February last year, the area was hit by an earthquake which claimed 309 lives. Donations from Hong Kong to the region totaled 220 million yuan.

The festive mood was also seen in Mohe, a small town at China's northernmost tip. People lit bonfires along the Heilongjiang River, singing and dancing the night away.

"Although Hong Kong is far away, the people there are also Chinese just like us," said Liu Wenbao, a local farmer.

On July 1, the first group of Hong Kong tourists to travel to the mainland after the region's historic homecoming was warmly welcomed by the National Tourism Administration (NTA) at the Capital Airport in Beijing.

An editorial in *People's Daily* on July 1, entitled *A Great Centennial Event for the Chinese Nation*, attributed Hong Kong's return to the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the great achievements of reform and opening up, the unremitting efforts of three generations of China's leadership and especially to Deng Xiaoping's theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics.

"This is the solemn conclusion that we draw from history," it said.

The editorial called on people from Hong Kong and the mainland to study and strictly abide by the Basic Law, and expressed the hope that Hong Kong people will assume the responsibility of governing Hong Kong as the master of the house. ■



# Speech by President Jiang Zemin at The Hong Kong Handover Ceremony Jointly Held by the Chinese And British Governments

(July 1, 1997)

Prince Charles,  
Prime Minister Tony Blair,  
Respected Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

The national flag of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the regional flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China have now solemnly risen over this land. At this moment, people of all countries in the world are casting their eyes on Hong Kong. In accordance with the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the Question of Hong Kong, the two governments have held on schedule the handover ceremony to proclaim China's resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong and the official establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. This is both a great event for the Chinese nation and a victory for the world cause of peace and justice.

Thus, July 1, 1997 will go down in history as a day that merits eternal memory. The return of Hong Kong to the motherland after going through more than one century of vicissitudes indicates that from now on, Hong Kong compatriots have become true masters of this Chinese land and that Hong Kong has now entered a new era of development.

History will remember Mr Deng Xiaoping for his creative concept of "one country, two systems." It is precisely along the course envisaged by this great concept that we have successfully resolved the Hong Kong issue through diplomatic negotiations and finally achieved Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

On his solemn occasion, I wish to express thanks to all the personages in both China and Britain who have contributed to the settlement of the Hong Kong issue and to all those in the world who have cared for and supported Hong Kong's return to the motherland.



WANG XINQING  
President Jiang Zemin speaks at the handover ceremony.

On this solemn occasion, I wish to extend cordial greetings and best wishes to the more than 6 million Hong Kong compatriots who have now returned to the embrace of the motherland.

After the return of Hong Kong, the Chinese government will unwaveringly implement the basic policies of



President Jiang Zemin meets Prince Charles.

WANG YAN

“one country, two systems”, “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” and “a high degree of autonomy” and keep Hong Kong’s previous socio-economic system and way of life of Hong Kong unchanged and its previous laws basically unchanged.

After the return of Hong Kong, the central people’s government shall be responsible for foreign affairs relating to Hong Kong and the defense of Hong Kong. The HKSAR shall be vested, in accordance with the Basic Law, with executive power, legislative power and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication. Hong Kong residents shall enjoy various rights and freedoms according to law. The HKSAR shall gradually develop a democratic system that suits Hong Kong’s reality.

After the return, Hong Kong will retain its status of a free port, continue to function as an international financial, trade and shipping center, and maintain and devel-

op its economic and cultural ties with other countries, regions and relevant international organizations. The legitimate economic interests of all countries and regions in Hong Kong will be protected by law.

I hope that all the countries and regions that have investment and trade interests here will continue to work for the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

Hong Kong compatriots have a glorious patriotic tradition. Hong Kong’s prosperity today, in the final analysis, has been created by Hong Kong compatriots. It is also inseparable from the development and support of the hinterland. I am confident that, with the strong backing of the entire Chinese people, the HKSAR government and Hong Kong compatriots will be able to manage Hong Kong well, build it up and maintain its long-term prosperity and stability, thereby ensuring Hong Kong a brighter future.

Thank you !



# Speech by Premier of the State Council Li Peng at the HKSAR Inauguration And Swearing-In Ceremony

(July 1, 1997)

motherland and the establishment of the government of the HKSAR marks the successful application of Mr. Deng Xiaoping's great vision of "one country, two systems" in resolving the question of Hong Kong. It represents an immense success of the Chinese people in their pursuit for complete national reunification. At the same time, it is a major contribu-

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this momentous occasion, I would like to extend, on behalf of the central people's government of the People's Republic of China, our warmest congratulations on the establishment of the government of the HKSAR.

I wish to take this opportunity to express heartfelt thanks to all the distinguished guests present at this ceremony. My thanks also go to members of the Preparatory Committee of HKSAR, members of the Selection Committee of the first government of the HKSAR and all those who care for and support the return of Hong Kong.

As of today, the Basic Law of the HKSAR of the People's Republic of China takes effect. The first Chief Executive of the HKSAR, principal officials of the government of the HKSAR, members of the Executive Council, members of the Provisional Legislative Council and judges of the Court of Final Appeal and of the High Court, you have now been sworn into office. History has invested a very important responsibility on you. The Hong Kong people have placed high hopes on you. I hope that you will, in the spirit of loving China and loving Hong Kong, implement the Basic Law in real earnest, scrupulously fulfill your duties and live up to the expectations of the people. The central people's government will give full support to the Chief Executive Mr. Tung Chee Hwa and to the work of the government of the HKSAR. I am convinced that, our Hong Kong compatriots, now back in the great family of the motherland,



Premier Li Peng speaking at HKSAR inauguration ceremony.

LI GE

will make positive contributions to Hong Kong's continued long-term prosperity and stability with their industry and wisdom.

The return of Hong Kong to the

tion to the cause of universal peace and progress. Hong Kong has now entered a new historical era and its future will be even more splendid!

Thank you all. ■



Premier Li Peng welcomed upon arriving in Hong Kong for the handover ceremony on the afternoon of June 30.

LIU JIANGSHENG



# Speech by Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa At the HKSAR Inauguration and Swearing-In Ceremony

(July 1, 1997)

President Jiang Zemin,  
Premier Li Peng,  
My Fellow Countrymen,  
Friends,

This is a momentous and historic day: July 1, 1997. After 156 years of separation, Hong Kong and China are whole again. This is a solemn, stately, and proud moment. We are here today to announce to the world, in our language, that Hong Kong has entered into a new era.



Raising his right hand, Tung Chee Hwa is sworn in as the first HKSAR chief executive.

ZHAO YINGXIN

In recent history, China, as a nation, and we, as a people, have been through days of glory and times of despair. We have lived through days of hope, prosperity and glory. We have lived through days of despair, humiliation, and hopelessness. The lesson is clear: the most precious possession of any nation or any people is the ability to chart one's own future, to be master of one's own destiny. Indeed, over the past century and a half, many compatriots, driven by lofty ideals and steadfast conviction, have devoted themselves to the advancement of our people and safeguarding the territorial integrity of our nation. Their enormous sacrifice and tireless efforts have brought us to where we are today. Never have we, as a nation, had such prosper-

ty and potential to achieve greatness as we do today. Nor have we achieved greater recognition and dignity in the international community as we do today; as Hong Kong is finally reunited with China in a smooth and peaceful manner.

Today, we, as a nation, are fortunate to be in a position which our predecessors could only dream about. As a Chinese living in Hong Kong, and on behalf of all the people of Hong Kong, I would like to express our profound respect and gratitude to all the men and

women who have made such sacrifices and given us what would otherwise have been impossible to attain.

The resumption of sovereignty over Hong Kong under "one country, two systems" is an ingenious and novel concept. The eyes of the world are on us, as Hong Kong accepts the great honor, and the challenge, of charting new waters which will make history. I am confident that we will rise to the challenge and build a brighter and better future. Our confidence is well founded. Our conviction is based on the intellect and vision of a great patriot and statesman; on the solemn commitment of a great nation; and on the wisdom, industry and versatility of the Hong Kong people, a legacy from our heritage and culture. Above all,

we, as one nation and one people, will implement the "one country, two systems" concept; it is entirely within our prerogative to make it work.

Through a solemn act of law, the central people's government has granted Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy, unparalleled anywhere in the world. We value this empowerment, and we will exercise our powers prudently and responsibly. We are embarking on a new era. With the respect and trust from the entire nation, we will be that much more equipped to sail forward with confidence and with conviction. We will play a part in facilitating the reunification of the entire nation, and bringing a better life to all in the nation.

For the first time in history, we, the people of Hong Kong, will be masters of our own destiny. The Special Administrative Region government is fully committed to preserving the Hong Kong way of life, maintaining Hong Kong's free and open economic system, upholding the rule of law, and building a more democratic society. We will be compassionate to those in need, and we will maintain Hong Kong as a vibrant and international city.

The nation and the people have entrusted to me the responsibility as chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. As I stand here at this historic moment, a moment of great honor and pride, I am mindful of the enormous responsibilities which lie ahead. Throughout my life, I have experienced the joy and satisfaction of success and the pain and frustration of failure. I understand the hopes and aspirations of Hong Kong people. I am fully aware of the power in unity of purpose and direction. I will resolutely uphold the principles of autonomy as set forth under the Basic Law. I will carry out my duties with honesty, sincerity and determination. I will lead the 6.5 million people of Hong Kong, along with our indomitable spirit, toward the future. As part of China, we will move forward as one inseparable nation with two distinct systems.

I firmly believe, as a special administrative region of China, the future of Hong Kong will be more glorious and more successful.

Thank you. ■



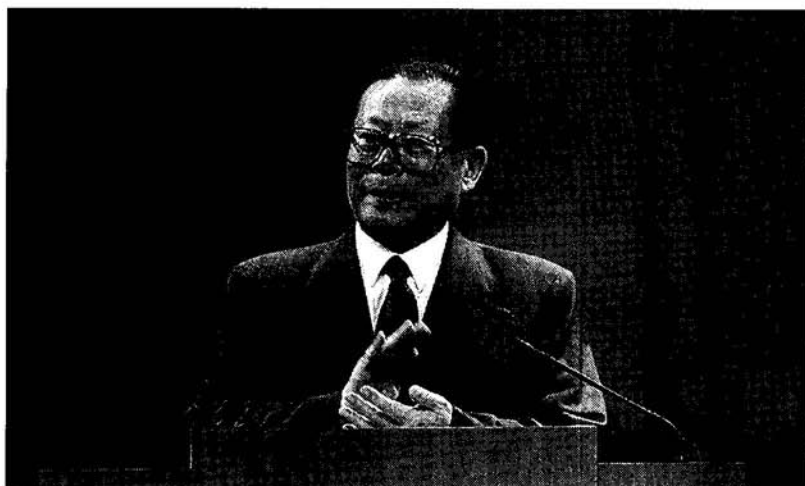
# Speech by President Jiang Zemin at The Party Celebrating the Establishment of The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

(July 1, 1997)

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
My Fellow Countrymen,

Today, the Chinese and British governments have held the handover ceremony of Hong Kong, solemnly announcing the resumption by the Chinese government of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong. Now, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China is formally established, which is an event of great importance and far-reaching influence for Hong Kong, China and even the whole world. I take this as a red-letter day not only for the Hong Kong compatriots, but also for the Chinese people and the entire Chinese nation.

At this august historical moment, on behalf of the central people's government and the Chinese people of all nationalities, I wish to extend our warm congratulations on Hong Kong's return to the motherland and the establishment of the HKSAR, to extend our cordial greetings to the 6 million Hong Kong compatriots now back to the big family of the motherland, and to express our gratitude to the compatriots in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and the overseas Chinese who have contributed to Hong Kong's return and all the patriotic personages supporting reunification of the motherland. My thanks also go to all our foreign friends who have cared for and supported Hong Kong's return to China. I also wish to extend, on behalf of the Chinese government, our welcome to the distin-



LIU JIANGUO

President Jiang Zemin addresses the ceremony marking the establishment of the HKSAR.

guished guests and friends who are present at this ceremony.

Hong Kong's return to the motherland is a shining page in the annals of the Chinese nation. From now on, the Hong Kong compatriots will truly become masters here as a new leaf will be turned in the annals of Hong Kong.

Since ancient times, our ancestors have lived and labored on this land generation after generation. From the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC) to Emperor Daoguang's Reign of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), China exercised jurisdiction and sovereignty over Hong Kong. In mid-19th century, after launching two Opium Wars, Britain forced the corrupt and incompetent Qing government to sign the Treaty of Nanking in 1842 and the Convention of Peking in

1860. In 1898, Britain again coerced the Qing government into signing the Convention of the Extension for Hong Kong, thus occupying the entire Hong Kong region. Notwithstanding the prolonged separation, the flesh-and-blood bond between Hong Kong compatriots and other people on mainland had never severed, nor had their shared sentiment for the well-being of the nation. The Chinese people have never recognized the unequal treaties imposed on them, never forgotten for a single day the humiliating state of Hong Kong under occupation and never stopped their indomitable struggle for state sovereignty and national emancipation.

With the passage of time, earth-shaking changes have taken place. The rise of the first five-star red flag





President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng meet HKSAR government officials.

WANG XINQING

at Tiananmen Square showed the world that China had achieved national independence and liberation and embarked on a road to socialism. Thanks to reform and opening-up, a rejuvenated Chinese nation has taken on a completely new look, and its international status has been greatly enhanced. It is under these conditions and against this historical backdrop that Hong Kong has finally returned to the motherland.

In these days of national jubilation for Hong Kong's return, we cherish dearly and with great admiration the memory of Mr Deng Xiaoping, who passed away not long ago. He initiated, with exceptional wisdom and great statesmanship, the creative vision of "one country, two systems", charting the correct course for us to resolve the issue of Hong Kong

through diplomatic negotiations and to maintain long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

After the Chinese government resumes the exercise of sovereignty over it, Hong Kong will continue to practice the capitalist system, with its previous socio-economic system and way of life remaining unchanged and its laws basically unchanged, while the main part of the nation persists in the socialist system.

As a special administrative region of the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong will enjoy a high degree of autonomy as provided for by the Basic Law, which includes the executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication. The central people's government will administer foreign and defense affairs of the HKSAR in

accordance with law. We extend our sincere congratulations to Mr Tung Chee Hwa, chief executive of the HKSAR government, who was sworn in today. We have full confidence in the HKSAR government under his leadership and will give it full support. The HKSAR Basic Law shall be observed not only in Hong Kong, but also by all departments of the central government, as well as all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government. No central government department or locality may or will be allowed to interfere in the affairs which, under the Basic Law, should be administered by the HKSAR on its own.

After Hong Kong returns to the motherland, the overwhelming majority of the laws previously in



PI DAWEI

Vice-Premier Qian Qichen, on behalf of the central government, transfers land funds to HKSAR Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa.

force will be maintained. Hong Kong residents will enjoy their rights and freedoms in accordance with law and will be equal before the law. The provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and international labor conventions as applied to Hong Kong will remain in force to be implemented through Hong Kong's regional legislation. A gradually improved democratic system suited to Hong Kong's reality is an important guarantee for its social and political stability. Hong Kong will, in accordance with the Basic Law, develop democracy gradually with the ultimate aim of electing the chief executive and the Legislative Council by universal suffrage.

After its return to the motherland, Hong Kong will retain the status of a free port and an international financial, trade and shipping center, while continuing to maintain and develop its economic and cultural relations with other countries, regions and relevant international organizations so that this international economic metropolis will forever be vigorous and dynamic. The HKSAR protects

the right to own private property in accordance with law and may, on its own, formulate its economic, trade, monetary, financial, educational, scientific and technological, cultural and sports policies in accordance with law. It will have independent finances, practice an independent taxation system and be a separate customs territory. All the economic and trade activities and investment interests of other countries and regions in Hong Kong will be protected by law.

These policies and guidelines have been formulated by the central people's government after careful consideration of the need to safeguard both the immediate interests of the Hong Kong compatriots and the fundamental interests of the Chinese nation. Their adherence serves Hong Kong, the entire nation and the world as well. Therefore, there is no reason whatsoever to change them. Here, I would like to reaffirm that "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and "a high degree of autonomy" will remain unchanged for 50 years. This is a long-term basic principle of ours.

Hong Kong's success today is, in the final analysis, the work of the Hong Kong compatriots. Their pioneering and enterprising spirit has filled people around the world with deep admiration. Our Hong Kong compatriots will certainly carry forward this valuable spirit and bring about a better future for Hong Kong. As Mr Deng Xiaoping rightly put it, "The Chinese in Hong Kong have the ability to run the affairs of Hong Kong well, and they should be confident of that."

Hong Kong's success today is inseparable from the motherland's development and the support by the people in the hinterland. After the founding of New China (in 1949), the Chinese government has all along given support for a socially stable and economically prosperous Hong Kong. Since the beginning of inland area's reform and opening-up, that support has become even more powerful and effective. Hong Kong, as an important bridge linking China and the rest of the world in economic, scientific, technological and cultural exchanges, has benefitted from it immensely. With the continuous advance of the motherland's modernization drive, Hong Kong's economic link with the inland areas will become even closer, and its role as a bridge will be increasingly enhanced. This will in turn give a stronger impetus to Hong Kong's economic growth.

Hong Kong's success today is also attributable to a number of other factors. Its advantageous geographical location, its free port policy of complete openness, its well-developed legal system and highly efficient team of civil service, and its effective economic management and civic



administration have all facilitated Hong Kong's economic development. These factors will continue to play a positive role after its return.

Our Hong Kong compatriots are known for their glorious tradition of patriotism. They have made important contributions in both the struggle for national liberation and the modernization drive of the motherland. Hong Kong compatriots will surely display greater love for the motherland and Hong Kong, and take it as their utmost honor to maintain long-term prosperity and stability in Hong

Kong and safeguard the fundamental interests of the country and the nation.

To many foreigners living here, Hong Kong has already become their home. It will remain their home in the future where they can live and work in peace and contentment. In Hong Kong, everyone will have the chance to compete on an equal footing, and everyone will be entitled to the rights and freedoms as protected by law, regardless of race and color.

By achieving a negotiated settlement of the Hong Kong issue, the

Chinese and British governments have provided the international community with an example of peaceful settlement of historical issues between states. Here, I wish to express my thanks to those British personages, both in and outside the government, for their contributions to the smooth transition of Hong Kong. We are confident that the successful solution to the issue of Hong Kong will help strengthen the friendship between the two peoples.

Thanks to reform, opening-up and the modernization drive, China has witnessed tremendous changes in its economic and social life. We owe all our achievements most fundamentally to the road of building socialism with Chinese characteristics which we have taken. We will unswervingly take economic development as our central task, continue to deepen reform, open still wider to the outside world and push for overall social progress. We will unswervingly promote peaceful reunification of the motherland in accordance with the principle of "one country, two systems", ensuring a smooth return of Macao and eventually resolving the issue of Taiwan. We will unswervingly pursue the independent foreign policy of peace, join the people of other countries in maintaining world peace and promoting common development, and contribute our share to the establishment of a fair and equitable new international order of peace and stability.

The advent of the 21st century has entered a countdown stage. Our country is at an important historical juncture. Let the entire Chinese people, including our compatriots in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan and the overseas Chinese, get united, let all patriots who support reunification of the motherland and care for its development get united. Let us all work hard with one mind, seize the day, seize the hour, keep abreast of the times and strive for the complete reunification of the motherland and the overall rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Thank you. ■



ZENG XIANGMIN

President Jiang Zemin congratulates performers on their celebration performances.



# A Future of Excellence and Prosperity for All

—Speech by Tung Chee Hwa,  
First Chief Executive of the HKSAR, at the Celebration Party

(July 1, 1997)

President Jiang,  
Distinguished State Leaders,  
Honored Guests,  
Fellow Hong Kong Citizens and  
Friends:

Today is a momentous day for China. Today is a joyous day for all Chinese people. July 1, 1997, marks the return of Hong Kong to China after a long separation. It marks the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. In the midnight hours behind us, China officially resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong; the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was sworn in by the Central People's Government. In peace and solemnity, Hong Kong opens a new chapter in its history.

As Hong Kong proudly strides into the new era with a new identity, our thoughts and remembrance go, with great reverence, to the late Mr Deng Xiaoping. There was a time in the early 1980s when Hong Kong people became increasingly concerned about the uncertainties surrounding 1997. Despite rapid economic growth, the mood in Hong Kong remained apprehensive due to the lack of a clear direction on the future. Mr Deng stepped forward decisively

and created a blueprint for Hong Kong after 1997, under the imaginative concept of "one country, two systems" and taking into account the collective interests of China and the Chinese people. The concept, widely accepted by all parties concerned, resolved the uncertainties over Hong Kong's future.

We should express our gratitude to President Jiang Zemin and the entire leadership in China. During the sometimes turbulent transitional period, they had worked tirelessly to smoothen the path leading up to the handover, lay the ground for a better Hong Kong, and ensure a smooth and successful transition. This is a remarkable achievement.

We can now move forward, on the basis of the solid foundation of past successes and under the guidance of the Basic Law, to lead Hong Kong to a new height. The Basic Law provides the constitutional framework for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. It has documented and institutionalized the "high degree of autonomy" conferred upon us. It clearly prescribes the social, economic and political systems in Hong Kong which are different from those in the mainland. It reaffirms the implementation of a different system within one coun-

try. It protects the rights and lifestyle of Hong Kong people and delineates our obligations.

Hong Kong is at present the freest and the most vibrant economy in the world. Free enterprise and free trade; prudent financial management and low taxation; the rule of law, an executive-led government and an efficient civil service have been a part of our tradition. All these factors which underlie our success have been guaranteed in the Basic Law.

Leaders in China have said time and again that the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong will contribute to the modernization of our country. Furthermore, the successful implementation of "one country, two systems", "a high degree of autonomy" and "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" is the first step toward the ultimate reunification of China.

Citizens of Hong Kong, this is our mission. There is before us a heavy responsibility and a long way to go.

Our country has given us a high degree of autonomy, and her full support. Now is the time for us to apply our intelligence and work arduously for a better future.

Like most people in Hong Kong, I am not a passer-by. Our home, our career, and our hope are here in Hong Kong. We have deep



ZHANG YANHUI

On behalf of the central government, Vice-Premier Qian Qichen presents Tung Chee Hwa, first chief executive of HKSAR, with a sculpture—a gift certificate with the design of the ever-blooming bauhinia.

feelings for Hong Kong and a sense of mission to build a better Hong Kong. Today, I wish to share with you my thoughts on the future development of the economy, education, housing and care for the elderly, issues which are of great concern to the people.

Hong Kong can be proud of its achievement over the past 30 years. There is no question about this. Nevertheless, we have to be alert to the challenges which lie ahead. We face keen competition in trade and services, and our competitiveness is threatened by persistently high inflation. We

have to resolve a series of social problems arising from a growing and aging population, meet the pressing demand for more and better housing, and deal with employment dislocation due to restructuring of the economy. All these require urgent attention and careful handling. Beneath the surface of prosperity, there are insidious threats which are taxing our courage and determination.

Our foremost task is to enhance Hong Kong's economic vitality and sustain economic growth. Only through the creation of wealth can we improve the liv-

ing of the people of Hong Kong, and continue to contribute to our country. It is the responsibility of the Special Administrative Region Government to create a good business environment, plan for and train the necessary manpower, and uphold the principles of free trade, fair competition and non-interference in the market. We will strive to enhance Hong Kong's position as an international financial center and a cosmopolitan city. We will promote the services sector and facilitate the development of value-added and high technology industries.



The world is entering an information era. We must adopt positive measures to encourage investment in the information industry and infrastructure, and nurture expertise in this area. Only then can Hong Kong remain at the forefront of the new age with vigor and vibrancy.

Education is the key to the future of Hong Kong. It provides a level playing field for all, and the human resources required for further economic development. Our education system must cater for Hong Kong's needs, contribute to the country, and adopt an international outlook. It should encourage diversification and combine the strengths of the East and the West, we shall draw up a comprehensive plan to improve the quality of education, and inject sufficient resources to achieve this goal.

The thrust of our policy will be to improve primary and secondary education. To start with, we must have quality teachers and principals with a strong sense of mission. We have to raise the professional qualification of teachers. In the foreseeable future, new teachers for primary and secondary schools should all have a university degree and teacher's training. We will extend full-day schooling to all primary schools and abolish floating classes in secondary schools as soon as possible. We will raise the standard of language training; formulate a comprehensive policy on the application of information technology in education; improve the system of examinations and school management; promote diversification in the school system. We will encourage tertiary institutions to develop areas of excellence. We will further review the academic system in terms of the length of and the interface between the various stages of education, so as to

ensure that our education system meets the long-term needs of Hong Kong.

We have to foster among our youngsters a sense of responsibility toward the family, the community, the country and the world; and to develop in them the strength of character, the spirit of enterprise, and the versatility to cope with vagaries in life. We will encourage our young people to have all-round development covering ethics, the intellect, the physique, social skills and aesthetics. To achieve this goal, the school, the family and the community must work together and share the responsibility.

Owning one's home is an aspiration shared by the people of Hong Kong. It is crucial for nurturing a sense of belonging and maintaining social stability. Housing cost also has a strong bearing on the economic vitality of Hong Kong. The crux of the housing problem is inadequate supply, causing prices to soar to creating opportunities for speculators.

The fact of the matter is: Hong Kong has enough land to meet our housing needs. With unfaltering determination, it should be possible to resolve the housing problem. We will draw up a 10-year housing plan; to speed up reclamation and land formation; extend the mass transit system and infrastructure development; and increase the efficiency of housing production through a comprehensive review of the existing organization and working procedures. We will substantially increase the production of home ownership flats, actively implement the sale of public rental flats to sitting tenants, and address the needs of the "sandwich class". We will increase overall housing supply at a target of not less than 85,000 flats a year. The aim is to achieve

a home ownership rate of 70 percent in 10 years. We will also speed up urban redevelopment, clear all temporary housing areas and cottage areas, rehouse the dwellers of bedspace apartments; and reduce the average waiting time for public rental housing to three years.

Rampant speculation in the property market in recent months has seriously affected our competitiveness and people's livelihood. We will devise a range of anti-speculation measures and monitor the market closely. We will take resolute action when it becomes necessary to do so.

Our senior citizens have contributed to Hong Kong's success. They deserve respect and care from the community. The Special Administrative Region Government will develop a comprehensive policy to take care of the various needs of our senior citizens and provide them with a sense of security, a sense of belonging and a sense of worthiness. We will set up a "Commission for the Elderly" with wide community representation to formulate policies and coordinate the delivery of services.

We will set up the Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme as soon as possible. We will also carry out an in-depth review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme which aims to assist the needy among our senior citizens and improve their living. We will encourage families to live with their elderly members through adjustment to the public housing allocation policies; provide supporting services to carers of the elderly; and increase the supply of housing and residential services for senior citizens. We will also improve primary health care and strengthen services for the chronically ill. Furthermore,



we will promote the physical and mental well-being of senior citizens and encourage them to do voluntary work, so that they can continue to contribute to the community.

Reunification with China opens up new opportunities for Hong Kong. Successful implementation of "one country, two systems" requires us to develop a better understanding of our country, cultivate a congenial relationship with the mainland, embrace a distinctive set of values; safeguard the rule of law; protect our freedoms; promote democracy; and establish a common long-term purpose.

The interests of Hong Kong and the motherland are intricately linked and intertwined. Due to our long separation, there is a general lack of understanding about China among the people of Hong Kong. The reunification has created a new environment and better conditions for us to understand our country and our people, and to love our country and our people. Only then can we firmly establish our roots and make "one country, two systems" a success. We must strengthen the understanding and relationship between Hong Kong and the mainland, through mutual trust, mutual economic benefits, cultural interaction, and mutual respect for each other's way of life. We know Hong Kong and the mainland will move forward together, hand in hand.

Every society has to have its own values to provide a common purpose and a sense of unity. Most of the people of Hong Kong are Chinese, some are not. For a long time, Hong Kong has embraced the Eastern and Western cultures. We will continue to encourage diversity in our society, but we must also reaffirm and respect the fine traditional Chinese values, including filial piety, love for the

family, modesty and integrity, and the desire for continuous improvement. We value plurality, but discourage open confrontation; we strive for liberty, but not at the expense of the rule of law; we respect minority views, but are mindful of wider interests; we protect individual rights, but also shoulder collective responsibilities. I hope these values will provide the foundation for unity in our society.

Maintaining and developing the legal system and the rule of law in Hong Kong is immensely important. We will continue to ensure that the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government will operate independently. We will keep up our efforts against corruption and maintain a clean society. We will ensure equality before the law and provide an attractive environment for investors and the people of Hong Kong.

We will preserve the existing freedoms and lifestyle, and ensure that the people of Hong Kong will continue to enjoy the freedom of speech, assembly, association, the press and other freedoms guaranteed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Democracy is the hallmark of a new era for Hong Kong. The Special Administrative Region Government will resolutely move forward to a more democratic form of government in accordance with the provisions in the Basic Law. We will provide opportunities for every stratum of the society and legitimate political organizations, and people with different shades of opinion, to participate in the political process. The Special Administrative Region Government will adopt an open attitude and be accountable to the public.

Hong Kong has an outstanding

and honest civil service. They will have a crucial role to play under "one country, two systems". Together, we will serve the community and work for a better Hong Kong.

For the first time in the history of Hong Kong, we now have the opportunity to chart our own destiny. Under "one country, two systems", we will move forward with conviction, prudence and determination. We will work together for a better future. Our vision of Hong Kong is:

- a society proud of its national identity and cultural heritage;
- a stable, equitable, free, democratic, compassionate society with a clear sense of direction;
- an affluent society with improved quality of life for all;
- a decent society with a level playing field and fair competition under the rule of law;
- a window for exchanges between China and the rest of the world;
- a renowned international financial, trading, transportation and communication center;
- a world-class cultural, education and scientific research center.

Distinguished guests, my fellow citizens of Hong Kong:

In two years, the People's Republic of China will be celebrating its 50th birthday. In two years, the world will be greeting the beginning of a new millennium. And I know, in two years, Hong Kong will achieve greater successes and a better life for all, as we move into the next century. Our nation will be proud of us.

I invite you to join me in wishing China thriving prosperity;

I invite you to join me in wishing Hong Kong continuous success. ■



# Speech by Premier Li Peng at the Reception In Beijing Celebrating the Return of Hong Kong to the Motherland

(July 1, 1997)

Distinguished Guests,  
Friends and Comrades,

Today the Chinese and British governments have successfully held the ceremony for the handover of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has announced its establishment. Hong Kong, which has gone through countless vicissitudes, has finally returned to the embrace of the great motherland. The day will be described in the annals of history as a grand festival for the Chinese nation. Today also is the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party. It is indeed a day of great rejoicing for double celebration.

On the occasion of national jubilation, we have gathered here to solemnly celebrate the return of Hong Kong. This is not only a celebration of a new epoch for Hong Kong, and a major victory in the great cause of China's peaceful reunification, but also a celebration of a great triumph for justice and progress of mankind.

The return of Hong Kong will not erase our memory of the humiliation and the struggle of the Chinese nation in modern history. For over a century, numerous fine sons and daughters of the Chinese nation have fought successively and bravely for national independence and liberation, adding a brilliant chapter to China's annals of national salvation and rejuvenation. The return of Hong



FAN RUJUN  
Premier Li Peng proposes a toast to Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

Kong has wiped out the century-long national humiliation and greatly kindled the patriotic passion of people of all nationalities in China.

At this very moment, we deeply cherish the memory of the revolutionary martyrs and forerunners for their great achievements, treasure all the more the ever-growing prosperity of the great motherland today and stiffen our determination to further advance China's socialist modernization drive.

The future of Hong Kong has attracted the attention of not only the entire Chinese people but also of the international community. The basic guideline of China for Hong Kong is "one country, two systems," "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and "a high degree of autonomy" with the current capitalist sys-

tem and way of life remaining unchanged and its laws basically unchanged. This guideline has been written into the Basic Law of the HKSAR in clear terms and solemnly announced both at home and abroad. As provided for in the Basic Law, the HKSAR, directly under the central people's government, is vested with the executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication.

The central people's government supports the HKSAR government in exercising its functions and powers according to law. The departments under the HKSAR government are not administratively subordinated to corresponding departments under the central government and the latter shall not interfere in the affairs that, according to law, shall be managed by Hong Kong itself. We are convinced that long-term prosperity and stability will surely be maintained in Hong Kong as long as those basic guidelines and policies are earnestly implemented.

The Basic Law of the HKSAR was formulated in accordance with the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and by taking into full account the history and reality of Hong Kong. A democratic system that is consistent with the provisions of the Basic Law and suits Hong Kong's reality will surely enjoy extensive rights and freedom unparalleled during the colonial rule. With the return of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong compatriots have become the





real masters of the land and they are fully capable of creating an even better future by giving full play to their wisdom and talent.

Hong Kong's return to the motherland has injected fresh vitality into its economy. And Hong Kong is blessed with unique advantages for its economic growth. The sustained, rapid and sound development of the national economy in the inland areas as a result of the reform and opening policy has provided the economy of Hong Kong with strong support. An enhanced role of Hong Kong as a bridge and linkage between China's economy and international economy will facilitate China's modernization drive. The enterprises of the mainland operating in Hong Kong have worked actively to strengthen the economic ties and cooperation between the motherland and Hong Kong, and they will continue to participate in the market competition on an equal footing and thus contribute to the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong.

A prosperous and stable Hong Kong serves not only the interests of China but also those of other countries in the world. Hong Kong will continue to play a unique role in the Asia-Pacific region and global economy by remaining a separate customs territory, free port and international financial, trade and shipping center. As Hong Kong will maintain and improve its sound investment environment already in place, we believe all personages with vision from the business community can see the bright prospect for economic growth in Hong Kong and will increase their eco-

nomical and trade exchanges with it. The legitimate interests of all countries in the world in Hong Kong will be protected by law.

Now that China has resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, Hong Kong affairs have become internal affairs of China's. According to the Basic Law, the central people's government shall be responsible for the foreign affairs and defense of Hong Kong. The Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR has been established and the People's Liberation Army Garrison in Hong Kong has already been deployed. The central government will not interfere in anything that should, according to the Basic Law, be decided by Hong Kong people themselves.

The HKSAR is authorized by the central people's government to handle a very broad range of external affairs on its own. It may, on its own, using the name "Hong Kong, China", maintain and develop relations with foreign states and regions and relevant international organizations in the fields including econo-

my, trade, finance, shipping, communications, tourism, culture and sports. It may join international organizations and participate in international conferences in an appropriate capacity, establish economic and trade offices in foreign countries, and apply immigration controls on entry into and exit from the region.

Hong Kong will continue to take part in the activities of over 30 international organizations and more than 200 international conventions will continue to be applicable to Hong Kong. China has concluded agreements with 94 countries on maintaining their consular missions in Hong Kong and it has also reached an agreement with Britain on the establishment by the latter of a consulate-general in Hong Kong through negotiations. Some official missions established in Hong Kong by states which have not established formal diplomatic relations with China may also be maintained in an appropriate capacity. Hong Kong will continue to unilaterally grant visa-free access to people from some 170 countries and regions. A number of countries have also waived visa requirements



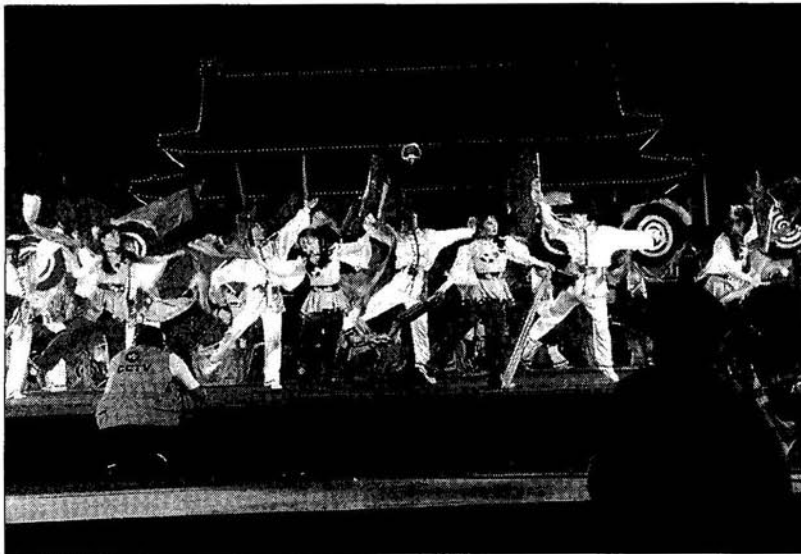
Beijingers celebrate Hong Kong's return.

XUE CHAO



Beijing residents buy national and Hong Kong flags.

CHEN ZONGLIE



Festive songs and dances in Tiananmen Square greet Hong Kong's return.

XUE CHAO

for people holding HKSAR passports and we hope to see more countries do so. With the powerful backing of the motherland, Hong Kong will enjoy a stronger status in international activities. The return of Hong Kong represents an important milestone for a complete reunification of the motherland. The scientific concept of "one country, two systems" initiated by Comrade Deng Xiaoping has now been put into practice in Hong Kong. The prepara-

tions for Macao's return are progressing systematically. If the formula of "one country, two systems" works in Hong Kong and Macao, it should also work in Taiwan. No matter how many difficulties we may encounter in the road ahead, we will and can achieve the complete reunification of our motherland.

We are now standing at the threshold of the 21st century. The world today is moving toward multipolarity at an accelerated pace and

peace and development remain the main themes of our time. The goal of China's economic development is to enable our people to lead a relatively comfortable life by the end of this century and to basically realize modernization by the middle of the next century. As China is a developing country, its modernization drive requires strenuous efforts of several generations, and therefore it needs a long-term peaceful international climate and a favorable surrounding environment.

The peace-loving Chinese people will always be an important force in maintaining world peace and regional stability, and they will never pose a threat to any other country. Pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace, China stands ready to develop friendly relations and cooperation with all countries in the world on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and make unremitting efforts to promote the establishment of a new international political and economic order.

This vast land of China is now a thriving scene of political stability, economic growth, national unity and social progress. Holding high the great banner of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, a theory initiated by Comrade Deng Xiaoping, and under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Jiang Zemin at the core, the Chinese people are forging ahead for the complete national reunification and the great revitalization of the Chinese nation!

Now, I would like to propose a toast:

To the return of Hong Kong to the embrace of the motherland and to its long-term prosperity and stability,

To the prosperity and reunification of China and to the well-being of its people,

To world peace and development,

To the health of all the distinguished guests, diplomatic envoys to China and their wives, and

To the health of the friends and comrades present!



# Speech by President Jiang Zemin at the Public Gathering to Celebrate Hong Kong's Return

(July 1, 1997)

Comrades and Friends,

Today, the Chinese and British governments have held the handover ceremony of Hong Kong, declaring the resumption by the Chinese government of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong and the formal establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China. With the rising of the Five-Star Red Flag and the Regional Flag of the HKSAR over Hong Kong, the over 6 million Hong Kong compatriots have now come back to the embrace of the great motherland. The vast land of China is a scene of jubilation and people from all corners of the world are fixing their eyes upon Hong Kong. The return of Hong Kong, the 100-year expectation of the Chinese people, has finally come true.

Tonight, people from all walks of life in Beijing have gathered here to celebrate this major event of our nation together with people in other parts of the country. On behalf of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the central people's government and people of all nationalities in China, I would like to express my warm congratulations on the return of Hong Kong and on the establishment of the HKSAR.

The return of Hong Kong marks an end to the 100-year national humiliation of leaving Hong Kong under foreign occupation and has opened a new era of common development of Hong Kong and the hinterland. It also symbolizes an important

step in the great cause of achieving national reunification and new contribution of the Chinese people to world peace, development and progress.

The return of Hong Kong is a major event in the annals of the development of the Chinese nation and also in world history in the 20th century.

At this important juncture, we cannot but think of Comrade Deng Xiaoping, chief architect of China's reform and opening-up program and the founder of the theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. The contribution he made to the settlement of the Hong Kong issue and the promotion of the complete reunification of our motherland was of major historic significance. We shall carry forward his legacy and work to ensure the success of Hong Kong and that of our modernization drive and national reunification.

This important moment has also revived our profound memory of Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi, Zhu De and other proletarian revolutionaries of the elder generation who were founders of New China and made outstanding contributions to the Chinese nation. We recall the revolutionary martyrs who



President Jiang Zemin speaks at the public gathering in Beijing to celebrate the return of Hong Kong to the motherland.

heroically sacrificed their lives to the liberation of the Chinese people, and the noble-minded patriots who devoted themselves to an independent, unified, strong and prosperous China. They would find it a great relief to hear that Hong Kong has finally come back to the motherland, Macao will come back soon, and the prospect of complete national reunification and all-round rejuvenation of the Chinese nation now stands promisingly in sight.

Reflecting on the past in the light



Gala celebration for Hong Kong's return.

CHEN ZONGLIE

of the present, all sorts of feelings have welled up. Since the beginning of modern history, the Chinese people, tragically but heroically, traversed a long and rugged road, a road full of humiliation and hardship, aspirations and tenacious pursuit, twists and turns, and struggles and sacrifices. Without all this, we would not have been able to obtain full independence, progress, development and pride today.

In the 1840s and 1850s, Britain launched two aggressive Opium Wars against China and forced the government of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) to sign the Treaty of Nanking (1842) and the Convention of Peking (1860), documents of national betrayal and humiliation which led to the cession of the Hong Kong Island and Kowloon to Britain. With the Convention of the Extension of Hong Kong in 1898, Britain forced the lease of the New Territories for 99 years, thus occupying the entire Hong Kong area.

The occupation of Hong Kong is an epitome of the humiliation China suffered in modern history. The Treaty of Nanking was the first unequal treaty imposed by a big Western power upon the Chinese people. The Opium War turned China from a feudal society into a semi-

colonial and semi-feudal one.

The brutal aggression of China by big powers and the two-fold imperialist and feudalist oppression of the Chinese people aggravated the people's sufferings and the crisis of the Chinese nation. On the other hand, they also awakened the entire nation and aroused the people's resistance, which contributed to the development and social progress of China. This is the rule of historical dialectics which is independent of the will of the oppressors.

The modern history of China tells us: a backward nation is liable to grief and a poor and weak one to bullying. The only way to fundamentally change one's historical fate is to rise up in resistance and work for a prosperous and powerful country. Ever since the first day of the big powers' aggression of China, the Chinese people had held high the patriotic banner in their struggle for national salvation and survival and against bullying through unity.

From the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Uprising to the Boxing Movement, from the Reform Movement of 1898 to the Revolution of 1911 led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, numerous sons and daughters of the Chinese people and noble-minded patriots advanced wave upon wave

and endured all difficulties and hardships in pursuit of the salvation for the country and the people.

In particular, after the May 4th Movement of 1919 and the founding of the CPC in 1921, the Chinese people got further united and, through hard struggle, eventually overturned the "three big mountains" and opened a new epoch of maintaining independence and building socialism. The Chinese nation will no longer allow itself to be bullied, oppressed and exploited by others. Today, the Chinese people have made remarkable achievements in their modernization endeavor. As a result, China now enjoys a higher international status in the world. It is against this background and for this very reason that Hong Kong has come back to China.

The modern history of China also tells us that the leadership of an advanced political party and guidance by scientific theories are indispensable for national liberation and for building a strong and prosperous country. Comrade Mao Zedong once said, it was only when the progressives in China found the scientific theory of Marxism and Leninism as the instrument for studying a nation's destiny that the Chinese people ceased to be passive in spirit and gained the initiative. It was the Communists who, integrating the basic theory of Marxism and Leninism with the specific reality in China, founded Mao Zedong Thought and guided the people of China to win national independence and liberation and turn China into a socialist country with initial prosperity. Today, it is again the Communists, who, having carried forward and developed further Marxism, Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought and founded Deng Xiaoping's theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, led the Chinese people to victory and progress in the reform, opening-up and modernization endeavor. Without the leadership of the CPC and the guidance of its scientific theory, it would be inconceivable for us



to achieve national liberation and build China into a strong and prosperous country.

China's modern history also tells us that to catch up with the progress of the times and trends in world development, a country must break up self-seclusion and go in for opening up. A major cause for the backwardness that China suffered after the industrial revolution in the West was the unwise closed-door policy adopted by the then feudal rulers who, unaspiring as they were, forfeited China of its ability to advance with the times and to resist the imperialist aggression, leaving it many records of national betrayal and humiliation. To lift themselves out of poverty and backwardness, a rotten legacy of history, it is imperative for the emancipated Chinese people to concentrate on economic development and conduct extensive economic, trade, scientific, technological and cultural exchanges and cooperation with all other countries in the world to draw upon fine fruit of world civilization.

In the fundamental interests of the country and the nation and in view of historical and practical conditions, Comrade Deng Xiaoping, with the farsightedness of a great statesman

and strategist, initiated the creative concept of "one country, two systems", which charted a right path to the realization of our national reunification. It was in accordance with this concept that we have successfully worked out a settlement for the issue of Hong Kong's return to the motherland through diplomatic negotiations, and it has also set a new model for peaceful settlement by the international community of outstanding historical issues between states and international disputes.

We will unswervingly carry out the principles of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and "a high degree of autonomy", and make sure that the previous socio-economic system and way of life of Hong Kong are retained and that laws previously in force in Hong Kong remain basically unchanged.

We will firmly support the HKSAR in its exercise of the functions and powers bestowed on it by the Basic Law and support the HKSAR government in its administration in accordance with law. The central people's government shall, in accordance with law, manage the foreign affairs and defense of the HKSAR. All departments of the cen-

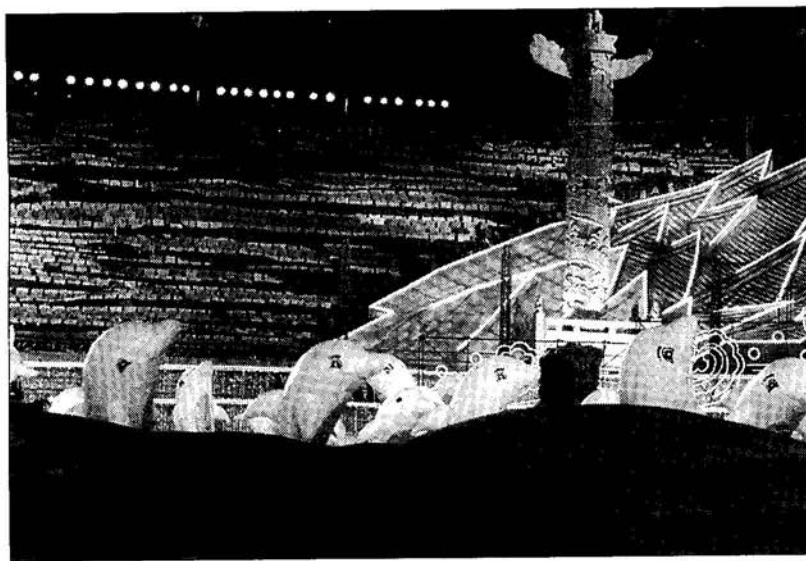
tral people's government, provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central people's government shall all observe the Basic Law of the HKSAR and none of them shall interfere in the affairs that shall be managed by the HKSAR on its own in accordance with the Basic Law.

We will unequivocally protect the rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents in accordance with law. Economic activities, trade and investment interests of other countries and regions in Hong Kong will be protected by law.

The implementation of these policies will not only ensure long-term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong after its return to the motherland, but also help promote the socialist modernization drive in the hinterland. Set an example for a smooth return of Macao and for the final solution to the Taiwan issue; and contribute to enhanced international economic and technological cooperation and to world peace and stability.

In modern times, the Hong Kong compatriots waged a heroic struggle against foreign aggression together with the rest of the Chinese nation. They have opened up and developed Hong Kong with their own hands and wisdom. The return of Hong Kong has brought about historical changes to their political status. Never before have they showed such patriotism toward the motherland and Hong Kong. There is every reason to believe that with the great motherland as its strong backing, with the vigorous support of the entire Chinese people and with the concerted efforts of Hong Kong compatriots, and by fully exploiting its unique advantages, the international metropolis of Hong Kong will shed even greater radiance.

Continued prosperity and stability in Hong Kong will benefit all countries and regions having economic activities, trade and investment interests in Hong Kong, as well as those having economic and trade ties with China. As this is an issue involving



XU XIANGJUN

Dancing Chinese White Dolphins on blue waves symbolize Hong Kong's return to the motherland.



CHEN ZONGLI

Beijing residents at a gala celebration party.

the interests of many parties, we hope that countries and regions concerned will adopt a constructive and cooperative attitude toward it.

"Above the sea, the moon shines bright; and everywhere in the world, people celebrate this moment in solemn delight." On this fine night, our compatriots in Macao and Taiwan and overseas Chinese are sharing the joy together with us on this grand occasion of celebrating Hong Kong's return.

Macao will return to the motherland in 1999, which will be another great event of our nation. Thanks to the friendly cooperation between China and Portugal, preparations for the return of Macao are now progressing smoothly. We have full confidence in Macao's smooth return.

It is an ardent aspiration of all Chinese to settle the Taiwan issue in line with the basic policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems" and to realize the great cause of national reunification. We hope that the Taiwan authorities will, setting store by the overall interests of our nation, truly return to the one-China position and take concrete steps toward the development of cross-Straits relations and to the complete reunification of the motherland.

As the 21st century is approach-

ing, profound and encouraging changes are taking place on this planet where we live. With accumulated progress of human civilizations of several millennia, mankind has displayed enormous creativity. Peace and development have become the mainstream of our times and the world is moving in a direction favorable to the formation of a multipolar pattern and the establishment of a just and rational new international order. The new scientific and technical revolution driven by the development of the information technology has advanced by leaps and bounds. And never before have the world economic cooperation and competition and cultural exchanges and interplay been so extensive and profound. In today's world, we face both challenges and opportunities. We must seize the precious development opportunities without letting them slip away and courageously take up the challenges to further expand our country's social productive forces, increase the aggregate national strength and improve the livelihood of our people.

To realize the modernization of our country and the rejuvenation of our nation, we must unswervingly implement the basic line advanced by the CPC and follow the road of build-

ing socialism with Chinese characteristics charted by Comrade Deng Xiaoping. We must always concentrate on economic development, seize the opportunity to deepen reform, expand the opening-up program, promote development and maintain stability so as to open up new prospects for the continued thriving of our cause. At the forthcoming 15th National Congress of the CPC, we will map out a comprehensive strategic plan for reform, development, stability and other major issues in our country, and put forward a program of action to guide our people in their efforts to press ahead with the socialist reform, opening-up and modernization drive toward the new century in an all-round way.

We Chinese people love peace dearly and fully appreciate its value. We will unswervingly pursue the independent foreign policy of peace, oppose hegemonism and power politics, support international just causes, continue to develop friendly relations and cooperation with all countries in the world, and will never seek hegemony. We are committed to regional and world peace and will be trustworthy friends of world people forever.

Today is a day of great rejoicing marking Hong Kong's return to the motherland and is also the 76th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party. Reviewing the history and looking into the future, we are fully confident of the bright future of our great motherland and the Chinese nation. With the leadership of the CPC, the guidance of Marxism, Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought and Deng Xiaoping's theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the unity of the Chinese people of all nationalities and patriotic forces, we will be able to build our motherland into a prosperous, strong, democratic and civilized modern socialist country through continuous hard work of several generations in a great patriotic spirit. The great Chinese nation will be able to make fresh and even greater contribution to mankind. ■



# Guarantee for Post-1997 Prosperity And Stability in Hong Kong

On the eve of Hong Kong's return, Beijing Review reporter Lin Liangqi interviewed Zhang Junsheng, deputy director of the Hong Kong Branch of the Xinhua News Agency, on the future of Hong Kong. —Ed.

by Zhang Junsheng

**Y**ou asked me why it is said that Hong Kong will have a brighter future after its return and how this can be guaranteed. In my opinion, there is no doubt about the future of Hong Kong after its return, because maintaining Hong Kong's post-1997 prosperity and stability will be guaranteed in at least three aspects.

## I. The Chinese Government's Consistent Policy of "One Country, Two Systems"

The great concept of "one country, two systems", put forward by Deng Xiaoping, is a realistic and practical optimum scheme for settling the issues of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. Having a close bearing on the peaceful reunification of the motherland, it is by no means a stop-gap measure. The Chinese

government's determination and sincerity in carrying out the policy are undoubted. It is convincingly proved by the fact that China listed a series of statements on its Hong Kong policies in the appendices, which are equally authentic as the text of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, and registered them with the United Nations, thus demonstrating their validity to the whole world.

To solve the issue of Hong Kong in line with the principle of "one country, two systems" is the

first step to realize the reunification of the motherland. In December 1999, Macao's return will also be accomplished according to this principle. These will play an important exemplary role in settling the issue of Taiwan and realizing peaceful reunification.

From the very beginning, Deng Xiaoping took personal charge of the formation of Hong Kong policies, and directly led and directed negotiations on solving the issue of Hong Kong, which resulted in reaching agreement with the British side and the signing of the Joint Declaration. Deng also gave specific instructions on drawing up the Basic Law and ensuring the smooth transition of Hong Kong.

In the latter half of the transition period, Deng Xiaoping and the Party's third-generation leadership with Jiang Zemin as its core led us to strongly oppose and resist various British acts that departed from the Joint Declaration. Efforts were made to unswervingly implement the principles of "keeping the initiative in our own hands" and "having faith in Hong Kong people and relying on Hong Kong people", and encourage Hong Kong people to actively participate in social affairs. Together with the majority of Hong Kong people, we successfully accomplished the preparation and organization of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), thus finally realizing the smooth transition.

The Chinese government's determination and sincerity for firmly car-



XIN FEN

Zhang Junsheng, deputy director of the Hong Kong Branch of the Xinhua News Agency.



rying out the policies of "one country, two systems", "Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong" and "a high degree of autonomy" were fully reflected in the process of preparing and organizing the HKSAR. The principle of "fairness, openness and impartiality" was implemented and democracy brought into full play in course of setting up the Selection Committee to select candidates for chief executive, and electing the Provisional Legislative Council (PLC). The central government never exerted interference or control in any form. Within one week after the chief executive was elected, the central government granted his official appointment.

Members of the Executive Council, appointed by the HKSAR chief executive, included representatives from various sectors, who have administrative experience. It reflected the principle of balanced participation. Of the 23 senior officials nominated by the chief executive and reported to the central people's government for approval, 22 were senior officials in the former Hong Kong government. This will be advantageous to the future operation of the HKSAR government, and has also been appreciated by various news media and political powers, except those who harbored a hostile attitude toward China.

In fact, the central government has shown not only respect but also great care for the HKSAR. It has adopted many effective measures to secure the HKSAR's true high-level autonomy and prevent its normal operation from uncalled-for interference. For instance, it clearly stipulates that no central government department, province, municipality or autonomous region is allowed to intervene in the affairs within the autonomy of the HKSAR. It also sets provisions concerning methods and rules for contacts between the HKSAR and various central government departments, provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, and measures for strengthening combat against secret migration.



Wearing new insignia, Eddie Hui Ki On, commissioner of the Police of Hong Kong, attends the HKSAR government swearing-in ceremony on the early morning of July 1. ZHAO YINGXIN

## II. Basic Law: A Legal Guarantee for Implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" Policy

In order to ensure the implementation of the "one country, two systems" policy in Hong Kong, shortly after the Sino-British Joint Declaration formally went into effect, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) organized the drafting of the Basic Law. The Basic Law Drafting Committee was composed of related personages and legal experts both from the hinterland and Hong Kong. Hong Kong also set up a Basic Law advisory committee consisting of 180 members, all from the region.

The drafting took four years and eight months. In the interim, two large-scale consultative activities were held in Hong Kong. It was rare in history that a law was drafted in such a careful, democratic and open way. Through concerted efforts, a law of international and historical significance was finally in place. The implementation of the Basic Law will surely offer an effective legal guarantee for carrying out the "one country, two systems" policy. It is because:

Firstly, the Basic Law accurately

reflects the general principle of "one country, two systems" and China's specific policies toward Hong Kong. The law stipulates that the HKSAR "enjoys executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication"; "the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years"; measures shall be taken "for the maintenance of the status of Hong Kong as an international financial center" and "as a center of international and regional aviation"; Hong Kong "shall maintain the status of a free port"; and it "shall be a separate customs territory".

At the same time, it also clearly sets the relationship between the HKSAR and various central government and other inland departments, thus displaying the bright prospects for implementation of the "one country, two systems" policy in Hong Kong. As long as everything is handled in line with the Basic Law, there will be no barriers to carrying out the "one country, two systems" policy. Even though some problems arise, they can be solved within the perfect mechanisms.

Secondly, the Basic Law has a high legal status. It was formulated by the NPC Standing Committee,





adopted by the NPC and promulgated by the state president. It is a typical national law, and its legal validity covers the whole country. Not only Hong Kong residents, but also those in the hinterland will observe it. In May this year, President Jiang Zemin clearly stated: "As the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, president of the country and chairman of the Central Military Commission, I will abide by the Basic Law of the HKSAR. While I observe the Basic Law, I hope Hong Kong compatriots and the 1.2 billion people nationwide will all observe it." The president's remarks well demonstrate the central government's determination to safeguard the authority of the Basic Law.

Finally, procedures for revising the Basic Law are strictly set. The power of amendment is vested in the NPC, and only the NPC Standing Committee, the State Council and the HKSAR have the power to propose bills of amendments. Amendment bills from the HKSAR shall be submitted to the NPC by the regional delegation after obtaining the consent of two-thirds of the regional NPC deputies, two-thirds of all the members of the Legislative Council of the region, and the HKSAR chief executive. Before a bill of amendment is

put on the agenda of the NPC, the Committee for the Basic Law of the HKSAR shall study it and submit its views.

### III. Motherland's Continuous Support to Hong Kong

Hong Kong's prosperity and stability is closely related with the long-term support of the motherland. The motherland is Hong Kong's reliable rear base. For a long period of time, the Chinese government has persevered in stabilizing Hong Kong politically and supporting Hong Kong economically. Even during the chaotic 10-year "cultural revolution" (1966-76), the government never stopped showing care for the region. The long-standing supply of non-staple foodstuffs and fresh water to the region is a typical example reflecting the kindred feelings of the Chinese government and people for compatriots in Hong Kong and Macao.

In 1962, the late Premier Zhou Enlai personally instructed the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Railways to jointly organize the supply of fresh, live and frozen goods to Hong Kong and Macao according to the market demand of the regions. From then on, three trains, Nos.751, 753 and 755, which set off respectively from Jiangnan of Hubei, Xinlonghua of Shanghai and Zhengzhou of Henan, have been shuttling between the inland areas and Hong Kong in all weathers and all days except for the first day of Chinese Lunar New Year. They have guaranteed balanced supply of quality and seasonable fresh, live goods in appropriate amounts to Hong Kong and Macao regions, satisfying the demand of compatriots there for daily necessities.

Over the past 35 years, goods transported by the three trains include more than 87 million live pigs, over 5.2 million live cattle, hundreds of thousands of live poultry and over 2 million tons of frozen meat, as well as large amounts of live fish and other aquatic products, fruit and vegetables. Moreover, there are also 15,000 trucks sending live domestic

animals and poultry from Shenzhen to Hong Kong each year. On Hong Kong's non-staple food market, over 80 percent of goods come from inland areas, and almost all live pigs, cattle, sheep, chicken, ducks and geese are supplied by the hinterland.

Embraced by the sea on three sides, Hong Kong lacks fresh water. In 1963, the region was hit by the biggest drought in 60 years. For a time, it could supply water to its residents only once every four days, and limited to four hours. Daily life of local residents was seriously affected, not to mention developing economy.

On December 8, after hearing a briefing by Guangdong leading officials on the situation, the late Premier Zhou Enlai decided right away on building the Dongjiang-Shenzhen drinking water supply project to solve the problem. On April 22 the following year, the Guangdong provincial government formally signed an agreement with the Hong Kong authorities. The project was completed in January 1965 and delivered 60 million cubic meters of water to Hong Kong in that very year. To meet the increasing demand for water in the region, related waterworks have been expanded many times. Now the annual water supply to Hong Kong exceeds 1 billion cubic meters, accounting for more than 70 percent of the region's yearly total water consumption.

In the late 1970s, the hinterland began implementing reform and opening policies, and its economy has since witnessed sustained, healthy and rapid development. This has offered another rare chance for Hong Kong's further prosperity. Statistics demonstrate that the service trade has become a new dynamic force motivating Hong Kong's economic development, a fact to a great extent benefiting from the rapid economic growth in inland areas.

The so-called service trade includes transportation, banking, insurance, tourism and trade-related service sectors. Hong Kong has always been a bridge for the



LI KAIYUAN

On July 1, Hong Kong residents buy newspapers with reports on the region's return.



exchange and cooperation between China's mainland and various countries in the world. The inland areas have annually introduced tens of billions of US dollars of direct overseas investment, over 60 percent of which come from Hong Kong. Thanks to the vast territory, comparatively low land cost, rich and cheap labor, and broad market in China's mainland, investors have generally reaped high, stable returns.

In addition, Hong Kong has traditionally been the biggest channel for inland areas' imports and exports. The volume of commodities imported and exported via Hong Kong has remained stable at about 70 percent. Following the broadening of reform and opening-up and rapid economic development in inland areas, import-export trade has increased significantly, which has in turn directly promoted Hong Kong's entrepot trade and related industries, such as banking and transportation, to grow at a faster rate. Even Hong Kong's tourism and service sectors have also benefitted from the inland areas and seen remarkable progress. In recent years, Hong Kong's tourism sector has been particularly thriving, ranking among the region's biggest foreign currency earners. Hong Kong's notability is truly one of the factors attracting numerous foreign tourists, but the increasing number of inland travelers is the key element.

It is just because of the benefits Hong Kong acquires from the inland's reform and opening drive, the region has been able to outshine others in the world by maintaining continuous economic development, while the whole Western economy was in a new cycle of depression. Hong Kong's unique advantages of backing on the motherland have absorbed numerous foreign investors to pour into the region. Most of the investors want to expand their business in China's hinterland with the aid of Hong Kong. This indirectly facilitates the expansion of the region's real estate, banking and stock exchange sectors, thus boosting local prosperity.

Reform and opening-up is China's basic national policy which will be firmly carried out in the future. After Hong Kong's return to the motherland, contacts between Hong Kong and the interior areas will continuously increase, and cooperation be further strengthened. Therefore, Hong Kong's prosperity can not only be maintained, but will also attain a higher level.

The Party and government leaders have always attached great importance to supporting Hong Kong's development. No efforts have been spared to maintain Hong Kong's smooth transfer, prosperity and stability. The Chinese government has also taken various opportunities to reiterate to the international community its determination to give full support to the region's development and further strengthen its post-1997 status as a center of world trade, finance, shipping and aviation, tourism and information, as well as its status as a free port and separate customs territory.

Formed under the leadership of the central government in line with the Basic Law and related regulations of the NPC and its Standing Committee and in a fully democratic way, the HKSAR government has won the trust and support of Hong Kong residents. Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa and members of the Executive Council and the PLC are handling various affairs cool-headedly and earnestly. They throw themselves into serving the Hong Kong people wholeheartedly. Besides, administrative officials of the HKSAR government all have rich experience in administration and have shown good behavior. I believe, under their leadership the HKSAR will surely operate effectively.

We current generation of Chinese not only have the ability to wipe out the century-old national humiliation, but are also capable of building a better Hong Kong. In the embrace of the motherland, Hong Kong—the Pearl of the Orient—will surely glow with brighter luster. ■

## Hong Kong Is Sure To Move Forward

**Julius Yeh, (advisor to Kong Sun Enterprises SDNBHD, Malaysia):** I am 82 years old and I have lived in Singapore for almost 50 years. In the 1960s, I was the director of the HK Office for Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand's Sin System Newspaper. In recent years, I have



PI DAWEI

Julius Yeh.

often traveled between Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and China's mainland. This has taught me much about Hong Kong and mainland conditions. I think Hong Kong has the best commercial port in the world, as it boasts a land connection with the mainland and air and sea links with the world. Hong Kong residents, who race against time and pay particular attention to efficiency, are hardworking and can work world wonders. I am full of confidence about Hong Kong's future. Having experienced untold hardships, China has eventually resumed its sovereignty over Hong Kong. I believe China will definitely make Hong Kong more thriving and prosperous. Hong Kong's past development was not due to Britain's ability but to China's strong backing, the most favorable condition of Hong Kong. Figures show how close the economic links between China's hinterland and Hong Kong were. After Hong Kong's return to the motherland, there will be more direct ties between them. China will take greater care of Hong Kong and enable it to maintain its stability and speed up its development. People of



talent have kept coming forth in China. Tempered in the 18 years of reform and opening, China's third generation of leaders have become more experienced in administering the state, they will push China forward and will definitely not draw it back. I am optimistic about Hong Kong after the handover. I hope to live long enough to see Hong Kong's brilliant future. ■

## Hong Kong Workers Continue to Contribute to Hong Kong's Prosperity

**Cheuk Siu Yee, (vice chairman of Motor Transport Workers General Union, HK):** Hong Kong boasts nearly 500,000 vehicles, most of them driven by transport workers. Hong Kong leads the world in container transportation, and much of this is attributable to transport work-



PI DAWEI

Cheuk Siu Yee.

ers. As Hong Kong is a tourist city, many visitors are carried around it by vehicles. This demonstrates the important role motor transport workers play in Hong Kong. The contribution transport workers have made to Hong Kong's economic boom must not be ignored. China's stability and development will facilitate the further development of Hong Kong's transportation industry after its return. The bright prospect for the motherland's economic development will provide us with a strong backing and enable us to make an even larger contribution to Hong Kong's prosperity. ■

# Responsibility Up, Worry Down

## —Hong Kong Students Welcome Happy Reunion

**B**eijing Review correspondent Lin Liangqi on June 23 interviewed Eric Chan, a student from the Department of Applied Social Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Chan answered questions about Hong Kong students' attitude toward HK's return to the motherland and their celebration activities.

**QUESTION:** At present, various social strata in Hong Kong are busy holding diverse activities celebrating the return of Hong Kong to the motherland. What about students? Some foreigners said students lack enthusiasm about the event. Is that so?

**ANSWER:** If you go around the campuses here and talk with any student, you will find most welcome Hong Kong's return to the motherland. It is because students all know the return means the end of the 100-odd years of British colonial rule. Moreover, they also have intimate knowledge about many things that have not been done properly under British colonial rule. For instance, little attention was paid to the development of welfare undertakings. We are all fully aware that today's prosperity of Hong Kong cannot be separated from the reform and opening-up endeavors in the hinterland, and only by relying on the motherland will Hong Kong have an even better tomorrow.

However, for more than 100 years, few exchanges and contacts were conducted between student communities of Hong Kong and the hinterland, apart from the influence of biased reports of some news media. So, some students took a wait-and-see attitude on whether the central government's policies can be implemented in Hong Kong. But the situation has been changing since the election of the first chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) last year and the gradual formation of the administration framework of the HKSAR government.

Students noted the efforts truly reflected the policies of "one country,



LIN LIANGQI

Eric Chan.

two systems", "Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong" and "high-level autonomy". From these, they verified the central government's determination in handling matters concerning Hong Kong. Therefore, their confidence is rising.

We believe every Hong Kong resident has a responsibility for realizing "Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong". They now feel they are bearing a greater responsibility and shouldering a heavier social burden. So, some unnecessary worries are decreasing.

**Q:** How much do students know about the motherland?

**A:** I should say their understanding has seen positive changes. When I studied here 1992-94, many students knew little about the motherland, and some couldn't even name the provinces. When I returned to the university last year, I found students had more knowledge thanks to the exchanges over the past years, reading newspapers and touring the hinterland. Communication with people in the hinterland now becomes easier.

**Q:** Are the students willing to participate in the celebration activities?

**A:** The situation is better than we anticipated. The Students Preparatory Committee for the Celebration of Reunification of Hong Kong with China sponsored an activity—"All Sharing One Heart Turned to China", a group exhibition in which participants form patterns, something like a huge jigsaw puzzle. We sent letters to various universities and colleges,



soliciting student participation. We only need 2,000 students, but the entries have far exceeded the needed number.

When the committee was first set up, some students were less interested in it. As time goes by, they have become more actively involved. During the past six months, we have held some lectures and organized visits to inland areas. Students showed great enthusiasm about these activities.

**Q:** Do you think the education system in the hinterland will influence that of Hong Kong?

**A:** I don't think so, because the Basic Law clearly prescribes that the hinterland and Hong Kong will retain their respective systems and characteristics. Of course, Hong Kong needs to make readjustment in some aspects. For instance, education in modern history is still a gap to be filled here in Hong Kong. Students' awareness of motherland and nation needs to be further heightened.

**Q:** What are the matters students think more about after Hong Kong's return?

**A:** Students' thinking is comparatively stable. What they are thinking more about is how to better develop themselves in Hong Kong after graduation. Many business department students want to go to inland areas after graduation, because they believe economic contacts between Hong Kong and the hinterland will increase. As far as I know, the work of 90 percent of the business graduates is closely related to the hinterland.

**Q:** It is said that Hong Kong students do not care about society. What is your comment?

**A:** Under the past colonial education, students only really cared about studying hard so as to find a well-paid job after graduation and lead a better life. Now we've got a different story. All aspects of future Hong Kong are matters of our own. We can no longer be indifferent to everything by stopping our ears and shutting our eyes. Currently, more students are tending to go out of campus into society and participate in various volunteer works and other social activities. They show an increasing concern about social affairs. ■

## Guarantee for Hong Kong's Freedom of the Press

by Our Special Staff Reporter Lin Liangqi

**O**n June 21, our Special Staff Reporter Lin Liangqi had an exclusive interview with Chan Kin Ming, chairman of Hong Kong Federation of Journalists, to discuss matters concerning freedom of the press after Hong Kong's return to the motherland. The following are the main points of the interview.

**QUESTION:** World opinions, including those of Hong Kong, have shown great interest in Hong Kong media trends. Some worry about the loss of freedom of the press after Hong Kong's return to the motherland. As a responsible leader of a press trade organization, what's your approach to this issue?

**ANSWER:** It is only normal that some people have fear about whether freedom of the press can be retained after Hong Kong's return, because it is a fundamental change from British rule to China's administration of the region after July 1. Any changes would inevitably raise such questions. Further-

more, because the operational method of Hong Kong's journalist circles is different from that of the mainland, some people fear the mainland method will affect Hong Kong. I think they have these worries because they do not fully understand the specific policies concerning the "one country, two systems" principle and lack sufficient confidence in their implementation. Objectively speaking, Hong Kong's freedom of the press is guaranteed by state policies. During the formulation of these policies, the central government has given full consideration to

the worries of some Hong Kong residents. The specific articles of the Basic Law guarantee that Hong Kong will enjoy freedom of speech and the press, and that the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will continue to be carried out. In line with such arrangements, Hong Kong's freedom of the press is unequivocally guaranteed by state policies and Hong Kong's laws. The central government will not and cannot push its inland mass media management regulations in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's future freedom of the press will be influenced by the related policies and laws enacted by the region itself.



Chan Kin Ming.

PI DAWEI

It is not easy to change the freedom of the press which has become a culture and habit of Hong Kong. Hence, the central government will let Hong Kong boldly manage its own affairs without any need to change the existing culture and habits. Therefore, the crux of the matter is that Hong Kong's journalist circles, including those

fearing of loss of freedom of the press, should treasure their own culture and habits, and work together to perform their work even better than before. Journalists should be firm in their stand of being responsible to society. They must not think that with freedom of the press, they can act recklessly. Particular attention is needed to ensure that commercial interest will not affect the objectivity, fairness and honesty of the press. Otherwise, misuse of freedom of the press not only will affect public confidence, but will pose a threat to the healthy development of



the entire trade.

**Q:** Could you say something more specific?

**A:** Hong Kong has various kinds of mass media, such as newspapers, magazines, radio and television and electronic networks. For the same matter, people often make different reports and express varying views via different channels, creating a situation of "letting one hundred flowers bloom" for the general public of Hong Kong, a situation which has existed in the past and will continue in the future.

**Q:** Some people worry that revision of some British-era regulations by the Special Administrative Regional Government will affect freedom of the press. What do you say about this?

**A:** This probably refers to revision of the Regulations Concerning the Public Security Organization, or the law needed to be enacted in the future in line with Article 23 of the Basic Law concerning prohibition of acts betraying and splitting up the country, instigating rebellion, subverting the Central People's Government and stealing state secrets. I think that as previous Hong Kong regulations prohibiting instigation of rebellion against the British government, so future Hong Kong regulations will not allow rebellion against the Chinese government. This is the natural result of a change in political power. All Hong Kong citizens should abide by these laws and regulations, and there is no exception for the journalists. Moreover, they should all the more be models in observing laws. Of course, we hope that while revising or formulating related regulations, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Regional Government should see to it that projected regulations will not constitute any obstruction to freedom of the press. To do this, the government should listen attentively to the opinions of the general public and journalists.

**Q:** There is a view that freedom of the press should embody mainly the two aspects of the general public supervising the government and reflecting the popular will through the mass media. In your opinion, what will Hong Kong's mass media do to

give play to their role in these two aspects after Hong Kong's return to the motherland?

**A:** I think Hong Kong's journalists have done very well in the past in the two aspects mentioned above. After Hong Kong's return to the motherland, they will likewise play a good role. Some time ago, there were lots of controversies between China and Britain, and the work carried out by Hong Kong's journalists about this was highly political. After July 1, such disputes should be reduced, and we can spend more time on matters regarding Hong Kong's economic development and people's livelihood, and see how the government will strengthen economic development in accordance with popular feeling. The mass media can advance various opinions and suggestions on improvements. Of course, criticism should be beneficial and reasonable and not mess things up. Criticisms and opinions help the government to review its policies and promote social progress, which will be welcomed by any officials with intuitive knowledge. At present, I do not

see any force in the Special Administrative Region attempting to inhibit journalists from playing this role, and indeed, it cannot succeed in doing so.

**Q:** Previously, Hong Kong's journalists had frequent exchanges with their international counterparts. Will these exchanges continue after Hong Kong's return?

**A:** I think such exchanges can only advance further. You see, in the scheduled hand-over ceremony, more than 8,000 reporters from around the world have applied to cover the ceremony in Hong Kong. This is a very open and active situation. They may also come whenever activities are to be held in Hong Kong in the future. As members of the Hong Kong Federation of Journalists, we are willing to strengthen exchanges with our international colleagues and join them to play a proper role as the news media supervising the government, supporting just demands and guiding and furthering good popular practice. We will work hard to promote social progress. ■

## Alice King and Her Boat of Art

by Our Staff Reporter Lin Liangqi

When her father was alive he headed a fleet of ships which sailed between Hong Kong and other parts of the world. Now she pilots a "small boat," and also shuttles back and forth between Hong Kong and other countries.

While her father was delivering goods and engaging in economic activities, she is spreading art, understanding and friendship between Hong Kong and the rest of the world through her art gallery. Friends regard her as an ambassador of art. She agrees, believing her mission is to spread culture and facilitate artistic exchange. Her name is Alice King, and she is the eldest daughter of the Shipping King C.Y. Tung.

On the afternoon of June 27, I went to Alice King's art gallery named

Alisan Fine Arts Ltd. (subsequently referred to as Alisan) in the Prince's Building located in the Hong Kong's bustling central business district. Someone once described it as an oasis in the desert, but I'd rather describe it as an island among a vast sea.

During our meeting she shared some very significant news. Alisan and the Shanghai Art Gallery will hold a joint exhibition entitled Chinese Roots—Works by Mainland and Overseas Chinese Artists from July 8-21, to celebrate Hong Kong's Return to the motherland. She will go to Shanghai to attend the opening ceremony.

"I am rather fond of Shanghai, my birth place. I began my artistic exchanges between Hong Kong and the mainland from Shanghai," said Alice.

Alisan first introduced mainland painters to Hong Kong in 1987 with an



Alice King,  
the eldest  
daughter  
of the  
Shipping  
King C.Y.  
Tung.

ZENG SHUMIN

exhibition by several Shanghai painters. This gave people from Hong Kong and even overseas an opportunity to discover Chinese artists.

"It is of great significance that I am holding an exhibition of overseas Chinese painters in Shanghai just 10 years later. It reminds me of my last exhibition," Alice commented.

Alice is a graduate of the Literature Department of Pennsylvania University in the United States. Chance led to her first involvement in art exchanges, and she has not been able to stop. Over the past 16 years, she has devoted herself to introducing and recommending Chinese and foreign artists to her clients, and establishing a relationship between them. She has held many joint art exhibitions with large art galleries in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, the United States, Britain and Denmark.

"I'd really like to introduce modern works by Chinese painters to art-lovers at home and in other parts of the world. These are paintings and sculptures with a strong contemporary flavor. They are a new wave of Chinese

culture," said Alice while showing me works by overseas Chinese painters, one after another.

"Your major was literature. Why did you switch to art?" I asked.

"Literature and art are interrelated," she answered. "Also, I was greatly influenced by my father."

"Your father was engaged in navigation. How is art related to that?" I asked.

"My father was keen on art. When I was a little girl, he used to take me to museums and art galleries. He also liked opera and local Shanghai opera. Though I think I must strive for my own cause, it is undeniable that my family played a major role in forming my character and habits," she said.

While we were speaking of her family, I asked whether Tung Chee Hwa, her brother, liked art too.

"He also likes art, especially film, but he doesn't have as much time as I do. Now he is even busier!" said Alice.

When I mentioned that Tung Chee Hwa would soon serve as the first Chief Executive of the HKSAR of the People's Republic of China on July 1,

Alice was quite happy and proud.

"Tung is well known in the mainland, and all of us accept him," I said.

"Yes," continued Alice. "I was there in May when my brother went to attend an activity in Beijing. He has the habit of taking a walk in the morning. I saw people passing by and stopping to ask for his autograph. He always obliged very pleasantly."

"You get on very well with all your brothers and sisters, don't you?" I asked.

"Yes, we grew up together and the relations between us are very harmonious. Whenever I have a good exhibition to hold at my gallery, I invite him. He always comes to express his support. We are a very traditional Chinese family. As my brother is the eldest in the family, all of us respect his opinion very much. He also shows great concern for me. I remember when I was young, I would often talk to him about my boyfriend," she said.

"Tung also enjoys great popularity internationally, doesn't he?" I asked again.

"My father was a member of some important international councils. After he passed away, his posts could have been given to other people, but they thought my brother was very honest and capable. Therefore, they let my brother replace my father," she said.

"All your family members must be very happy to see your brother act as Chief Executive of the HKSAR," I said.

"Yes we are. When he first stood for the election we didn't expect him to win. But once he is elected, we believe he will do his job well, because he does everything very conscientiously and has a great sense of responsibility," she said.

The interview was over. But when I looked around Alisan one last time, some words Alice had repeated several times echoed in my mind: "I am very happy for my brother. However, please don't write about me because of my brother or my father's background. I will rely on myself to succeed. Of course I believe my brother cares about the development of art."

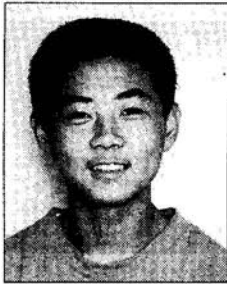
I silently wish her light boat a smooth sailing on the sea of art. ■



# Beijing Residents Hail Return of Hong Kong

On the eve of Hong Kong's return to the motherland, our reporters interviewed some Beijing residents about this great event in Chinese history. Partial records of the interviews follow.—Ed.

**Zhang Zhongwei, student of the Beijing No. 8 Middle School:** Like all parts of the country, our school is



also permeated with a festive atmosphere, and has organized various activities, such as symposia, singing contest and quiz on Hong Kong.

Being born in the 1980s, we never experienced national sorrow and disturbances. From primary to junior and senior middle schools, our Chinese history textbooks have all contained chapters on the Hong Kong issue, including the Opium War and the Treaty of Nanking. The deeper we understand the national disgrace a century ago, the greater we find the significance of Hong Kong's return to the motherland today.

From the media we know Hong Kong is a beautiful and prosperous metropolis serving as a free harbor and an international financial, trade, shipping, tourism and information center. During my tour to Europe last winter, I bought some exquisite light industrial goods in France, and found only after I had come back that they were made in Hong Kong. This taught me the ABC of Hong Kong's vitality and influence in global economic life.

I hope, after its return, Hong Kong will maintain its vigor and prosperity. We have learned the idea of "one country, two systems". I believe, the adherence to this principle and the Basic Law will make Hong Kong's return a successful example in China's historical process.

**Zhang Beiying, vice-board chairman and vice-president of the China Travel Service (Holdings) Corp.:** Hong Kong's return to the motherland is a great event in China's history. As a Chinese, I feel very happy and proud. In terms of tourism,



Hong Kong will develop more extensive, direct and closer ties with inland areas after its return, the two supporting and complementing each other with their respective advantages.

As a busy metropolis, Hong Kong has attracted millions of overseas tourists over the past few years, becoming the most popular tourist resort in the Asia-Pacific Region. Tourism has become Hong Kong's important economic pillar. The region has accumulated many successful experiences in tourism planning and management, particularly in the management of travel agencies and hotels under a market economic

structure.

The China Travel Service (Holdings) Corp. has entered into cooperation or pooled funds jointly with some Hong Kong businesses to build the Beijing Lido Holiday Inn and the Beijing Hilton Hotel. Scientific, professional management has brought sound returns to investors.

While continuing to strengthen cooperation with the China Travel Service in Hong Kong, our group will establish extensive cooperative relations with other Hong Kong-based enterprises, and strive to develop new products and provide quality services, in an effort to contribute to the development of China's tourism and economic prosperity.

**Wan Yingli, student of the English Department of the Institute of International Relations:** Hong Kong's return not only brings honor to the Chinese nation, but also reflects the international community's respect for China. In the history of international relations, there were similar cases, but none was resolved so smoothly and some even ended up in wars.

The smooth resolution of the Hong Kong issue indicates that China has become powerful and has a say in international affairs. This has filled all descendants of the Yellow Emperor with confidence in and pride for our nation.

After China introduced reform



and opening policies, some 40 percent of its foreign trade has been via Hong Kong. After its return, Hong Kong is expected to further promote the country's reform and opening endeavors and help standardize China's young market economy.

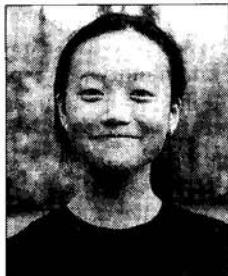


Hong Kong, which has blended the essence of both the East and West, is a bridgehead for us to contact and learn from useful things from the West.

As for the 6.5 million Hong Kong compatriots, the return to the motherland will enable them to better understand their country, a matter of great significance.

I'm very interested in finance. Some universities in southern coastal cities have opened the course on Hong Kong's finance. I'd like to take such course if possible. After all, Hong Kong now has formally become a part of China.

**Shi Hongmei, student of the International Politics Department of the Institute of International Relations:** I believe Hong Kong will enjoy a bright future after its return. The Chinese government has adopted



the policies of "one country, two systems" and "the rule of Hong Kong by Hong Kong residents". The Basic Law will ensure Hong Kong, the "Pearl of the Orient", continues to maintain its high economic growth rate, along with retention of its economic policies. Moreover, with the labor force, natural resources and extensive market provided by the motherland, Hong Kong will surely maintain its important role in Asia and the world as a whole.

A law governing the history of international relations reveals that a backward country is subject to attacks. The tragedy of China's loss of Hong Kong over a century ago served as proof. China's recovery of Hong Kong indicates that our motherland has become prosperous and powerful. The concept of "one coun-

try, two systems" is also an unprecedented creation in the history of international relations, and is expected to make contributions to the civilization and progress of the whole human society.

People of my generation, having witnessed the great event of Hong Kong's return to the motherland, bear the historical mission of maintaining Hong Kong's prosperity and building a developed China through to the next century. The bright future of Hong Kong also predicts the great prospects for China.

I yearn to get in touch with Hong Kong students in the hope of enhancing mutual understanding. Some people claim that there exist misunderstandings between mainland and Hong Kong residents. I believe closer contacts will help eliminate misunderstandings.

**Liang Jiaxun, chairman of the Trade Union of the Beijing Jeep Corp.:** Our workers are greatly elated for the return of Hong Kong, an event marking a good beginning for the great cause of the reunification of the motherland.

The occupation of Hong Kong by a Western power was due to China's backwardness which subjected the country to aggression and humiliation. To stand independently among the forest of nations worldwide,



China must explore a road to make the country prosperous and powerful. Now it has found such a road—building socialism with Chinese characteristics charted by Deng Xiaoping. We must follow this road unswervingly.

We should also transfer the great enthusiasm of patriotism inspired by the return of Hong Kong into hard-working and selfless devotion. We are determined to strive to do our bit for the development of China's auto industry and the building of a prosperous and powerful motherland.

**Chen Xiangdong, colonel of the University of National Defense:** As a member of the People's Liberation



Army, I feel very happy and proud for the return of Hong Kong. Some 155 years ago, the British relied on their powerful vessels and cannons to force the Qing court to cede Hong Kong. Today, we are able to recover Hong Kong through the principles of "one country, two systems", relying not only on constantly enhanced national strength and consolidated national defense, but also a powerful and civilized armed force. Hence, our taking back of Hong Kong is not only to recover a piece of ceded land, but also our national dignity.

The return of Hong Kong has profound and far-reaching historical significance. It indicates socialist China has made a solid and substantial stride forward on the road to reunifying the motherland, and exhibits the great attractiveness of China's socialism, a system that can absorb all achievements of human civilization. It also indicates the strong vitality of Deng Xiaoping's theory of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. We must firmly follow this road and create a brighter future for Hong Kong and the motherland. ■





# World Hails Hong Kong's Return

On July 1, China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong, which had been subjected to 156 years of British colonial rule. The event has drawn worldwide attention. World leaders and opinions hailed China's recovery of Hong Kong, citing the "one country, two systems" policy as an example for the resolution of international disputes and expressing confidence in Hong Kong's future prosperity.

## International Organizations

**Kofi Annan, secretary-general of the United Nations:** The return of Hong Kong to China is an event of historic significance, a milestone in the long history of decolonization. The world has viewed with admiration and respect the process that has come to this satisfactory conclusion today. For the resumption of Chinese sovereignty over Hong Kong has come about in peace, through negotiation. This has set an example for the resolution of other similar questions in other parts of the world. For the resourceful and dynamic people of Hong Kong, a new future beckons, based on the solid foundations already laid down. The economy of Hong Kong is both strong and vibrant. Important commitments have been given to the people of Hong Kong, guaranteeing that the way of life and rich diversity of Hong Kong's society will be preserved and enhanced under the formula of "one country, two systems". Everybody will gain — the people in Hong Kong and other parts of China and the people in the rest of the world.

**Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, secretary-general of the Arab League:** The Arab world welcomes and congratulates China's resumption of exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong. The "one country, two systems" concept is a unique way to achieve national reunification and

resolve regional and international disputes. It proves that it is possible to find a peaceful solution for conflicts while preserving the interests of all parties concerned. Hong Kong is a financial, trade, transportation and tourism center in the Far East and the world. I believe China will do its best to maintain the prosperity of Hong Kong and develop its potentials.

**Zhang Shengman, vice-president of the World Bank:** Hong Kong's return is significant in three ways. First, it washed away the humiliations inflicted on the Chinese nation for the past century; second, it marked the end of Western colonial rule in Asia; third, it means the great concept of "one country, two systems" is being put into practice. Hong Kong and the mainland are economically complementary to each other, which will promote mutual prosperity and development. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are preparing for a joint annual meeting to be held on September 23 in Hong Kong. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the world to know more about the World Bank and for the World Bank and the world to know more about Asia and China.

## Europe

**Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation:** I'm confident that after its return to China, Hong Kong will remain a flourishing financial and economic center of Asia and the whole world. This proves that Deng Xiaoping's concept of "one country, two systems" is viable.

**Klaus Kinkel, German foreign minister:** I am convinced that, on the basis of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Hong Kong will thrive and prosper after it returns

to China and will continue the impressive development it has experienced over the past decades. With the excellent relations Germany already enjoys with Hong Kong today, we see bright prospects ahead. German companies have every confidence in Hong Kong's future.

**Romano Prodi, Italian prime minister:** Hong Kong's return is the most important event of the last few years and I am confident that the "one country, two systems" concept will succeed in Hong Kong because it is in the interests of China and all its friendly countries. My country's relations with China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will further develop.

**Costis Stephanopoulos, Greek president:** China's resumption of exercising sovereignty over Hong Kong is a significant and historic event and the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is a new turning point in the history of the People's Republic of China. I am confident that under its new leadership, Hong Kong, as a very important financial and economic center, will maintain its stability and prosperity, with its lifestyle unchanged.

**Irish President Mary Robison:** Hong Kong's return is not only an important moment in the history of China but also a major event to the international community.

**Romanian President Constantinescu:** The resolution of the Hong Kong question is a victory of the reform and opening up policy of the People's Republic of China; it also sets a positive example for peaceful settlement of international disputes.

## Asia

**Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japanese prime minister:** I think China will be able to achieve success in its great experiment to carry out the principle of "one country, two systems."

**Kim Young-Sam, South Korean president:** I believe Hong Kong, which is playing a leading role in East Asia's economic development, will maintain stability and develop-



PANG WEILIANG

"Goodbye, Hong Kong": *The Independent* of Britain carries the Chinese headline on July 1. Hong Kong's handover becomes the focus of world attention.

ment after its return to the motherland.

**Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh:** The handover of Hong Kong is a historic occasion for China. I believe under the Chinese governments' policy of "one country, two system", Hong Kong will sustain its distinct dynamism and further develop as an economic enter. I'm also certain that the relationship between Thailand and Hong Kong will be further enhanced through mutual cooperation and support.

**Indian Prime Minister Inder Gurjal:** Hong Kong's return to China is the final end to colonial rule in Asia. The Indian people, who shared the same experience of hav-

ing been oppressed by colonialism in the past, can fully understand the joy of the Chinese people. The maintenance of Hong Kong's prosperity after July 1 will continue to benefit the interests of China and India.

**Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat:** Hong Kong's return will enhance China's international standing and be conducive to China playing a greater role in safeguarding world security and peace.

**Fidel Ramos, Philippine president:** I believe under the principles of "one country, two systems," "Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong," and "a high degree of autonomy," China's resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong will contribute to the stability

and progress of Hong Kong, China's inland areas and the Asia-Pacific region.

**Nawaz Sharif, Pakistani prime minister:** The Pakistani people are just as rejoiced as the Chinese people over the return of Hong Kong to China. The peaceful resolution of the Hong Kong question is a significant event in China's history. Pakistan and Hong Kong have had traditional and good trade relations in the past and Hong Kong is now the second largest export market of Pakistan. With the prosperous Chinese mainland economy as support, Hong Kong will be even more prosperous in the future and the trade and economic relations between Hong Kong and Pakistan will also further develop.

### Latin America / Africa

**Cuban President Fidel Castro:** The Chinese people, with their firm will and the wisdom of their leaders, have fulfilled their most desired dream at last.

**South African President Nelson Mandela:** China's resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong marks the end of a period of history, heralds in a new era and is the manifestation of the policy of "one country, two systems".

**Nigerien President Ibrahim Barre Mainassara:** Hong Kong's return sets an example for peaceful settlement of regional and international issues and shows China's desire to maintain peace and security in the world.

### Oceania

**Australian Acting Prime Minister Tim Fischer:** China and Britain deserve great credit for what they have achieved in the 13 years since the signing of the Joint Declaration. This agreement, with its undertaking of a high degree of autonomy for Hong Kong for 50 years, has enabled the people of Hong Kong and the international business community, including Australian business, to plan for the future with confidence. ■

### Subscription Notice

Issue No.29 of *Beijing Review* is a special issue marking Hong Kong's return to the motherland, with four extra center pages for color photos. Readers especially interested in ordering this issue are welcome to contact the Distribution Department of *Beijing Review*.

The subscription rate (postage included) is 1.7 yuan per copy for domestic subscribers and US\$2.00 per copy for overseas subscribers.

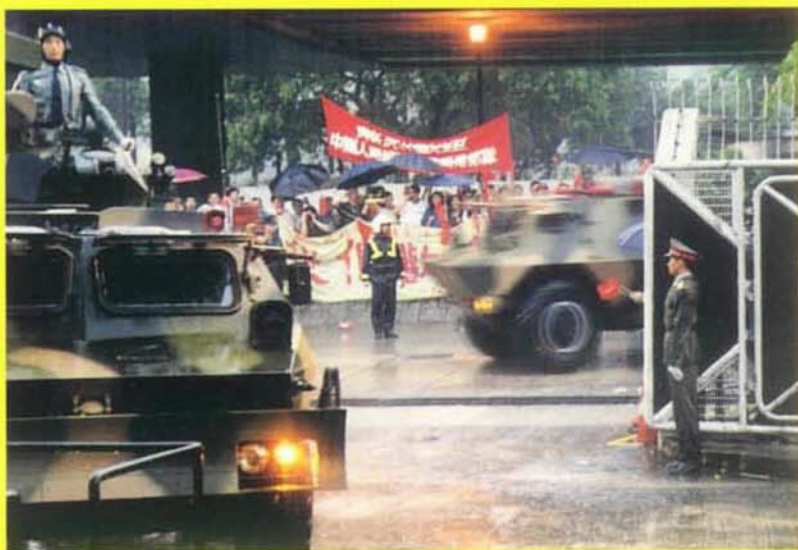
Contact Person: Zhang Guizhen Tel: (86-10) 68310644 Fax: (86-10) 68310644

## The PLA Hong Kong Garrison Stationed in Hong Kong

The Office of the Commissioner of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Starts Operation in the HKSAR

PLA Hong Kong Garrison troops reach Hong Kong for the military handover.

ZHOU CHAORONG



Hong Kong residents brave the rain to welcome arriving soldiers of the PLA Hong Kong Garrison.

WANG JIANMIN

The Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China becomes operational on the afternoon of July 1. Pictured here (from right to left): Commissioner Ma Yuzhen, HKSAR Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, and Director Lu Ping of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council.

LI QIHUA







At zero hour on July 1, 1997, the five-star red flag of China and the flag of the HKSAR are slowly and solemnly hoisted to the top of their respective poles at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, site of the handover.

# Inauguration of the HKSAR of the People's Republic of China



Chinese President Jiang Zemin announces the official establishment of the HKSAR.

*PI DAWEI*



Tung Chee Hwa is sworn in as HKSAR chief executive by Premier Li Peng.

*PI DAWEI*



Major HKSAR government officials (headed by Anson Chan) are sworn in by Premier Li Peng.

*ZHAO YINGXIN*



Tung Chee Hwa shakes hands with Chung Sze Yuen after the swearing in of the Executive Council.

*PI DAWEI*



Tung Chee Hwa greets Rita Fan after members of the Provisional Legislative Council are sworn in.

*PI DAWEI*



HKSAR judges are sworn in by Tung Chee Hwa.

*ZHAO YINGXIN*

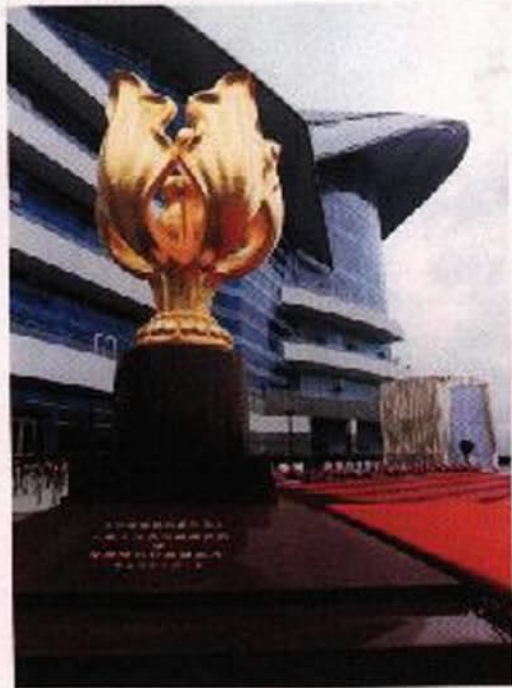
President Jiang Zemin presents an inscription to the HKSAR government at the ceremony inaugurating the HKSAR. It reads: "A Brighter Future for Hong Kong."

*Photo by Pi Dawei*



Fireworks illuminate Hong Kong to celebrate its return to the motherland

*Photo by Zhong Yanhui*



Hong Kong residents perform a lion dance to celebrate the return.

*Photo by Yang Fei*

"Ever-Blooming Bauhinia", a sculpture given to the HKSAR government by the central government, in front of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, where the handover ceremony is held.

*Photo by Zhong Yanhui*

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