

2,500 families go to Singapore

ABOUT 2,500 Hongkong families have so far taken up residence in Singapore under that government's policy of attracting foreign skills and talent.

Acting Minister for Information and the Arts, George Yeo, said it was difficult to forecast how many Hongkong people, given in-principle permanent residence, would eventually move to Singapore.

Mr Yeo, a retired brigadier-general, also chairs the Immigration Affairs Committee.

He visited Hongkong last week to attend the official opening of the local branch of the Development Bank of Singapore.

He said in a report in the *Sunday Times of Singapore* that it would depend on events in China and how confident Hongkong people were about the future.

Singapore Commissioner in Hongkong, Gordon Seow, said his government had to date granted in-principle approvals for permanent residence to 33,000 heads of Hongkong households.

About 20,000 successful applicants were skilled workers qualified under a scheme announced by the government in July 1989.

The scheme allows up to 25,000 Hongkong families to be absorbed into Singapore.