

J. C. M. P. 17 Sept. 1983

1997: that is the question

English playwright William Shakespeare and Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, became a part of the question of Hongkong's future yesterday.

They entered the issue during an address welcoming new students to Hongkong University given by its vice-chancellor, Dr Rayson Huang.

He told the newcomers that the extent to which Hongkong's educated elite are prepared to commit themselves to a personal stake in Hongkong's future will be a determining factor in achieving a future.

He described it as an issue that cannot be shelved and made the point with reference to a well known quotation from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

"To stay or not to stay," said Dr Huang, is as crucial a dilemma for Hongkong's graduate population as "To be or not to be" was for the tragic Prince.

Dr Huang told the students that Hongkong society needs their talents, not just in terms of any professional expertise and competence that may be acquired but also in terms of participation in community affairs as a concerned and thinking citizen.