

132 China-trained doctors will not take licence test

ANOTHER 132 unregistered China-trained doctors have decided to boycott the medical licence test to be held next month.

They are all non-British Commonwealth medical graduates who are at present civil servants working in hospitals and clinics throughout Hongkong.

Their decision was revealed by the chairman of the Hongkong Chinese Civil Servants' Association's doctors unit, Dr Ho Hung-wai, on behalf of all the 132 members during a press conference held yesterday.

Dr Ho said that over half of the 132 doctors have been serving in government hospitals and clinics for more than ten years, requiring them to take a test with other unregistrable China-trained doctors was extremely unfair to them.

"To be fair," he said, "those of us who have worked for the Government for more than 10 years should be allowed to register without having to take the test.

"We are not asking for something we do not deserve," he continued. "We have always held the same duties and responsibilities in government hospitals and

clinics as that of any British Commonwealth doctors employed by the Government.

"Furthermore, the report recently conducted by the Hongkong Medical Council licentiate committee on local unregistrable doctors has pointed out that the high standard of medical services maintained today was due to the contribution of those non-British Commonwealth doctors during the Pacific war."

"Then why should our own medical standard and qualifications be questioned and doubted?" the doctor asked.

He also cited the example of 14 non-British Commonwealth doctors granted licences without having to take any test because of services they

rendered to British soldiers during the Pacific war.

"Actually, we should also be entitled to that," said Dr Ho.

He further said that in the case of Britain where a test for non-British Commonwealth medical graduates evaluating their standards before licences were issued existed, those who have worked in the Government over five years were exempted from the test.

Meanwhile, the Union of Medical Graduates of China has also called a meeting among local China-trained doctors yesterday.

They have reached a decision to petition the Governor today in their protest against the medical examination.