

12 conditions that will make it workable

THE one country two systems political deal between Hongkong and China, requires China to fulfill eight conditions, and Hongkong four, to make the concept workable.

This is what Mr Y.C. Wong, lecturer in Social Science at Ling Nam College said yesterday while speaking to students at a forum on the joint declaration. He listed the eight conditions on the Chinese side as follows:

- Reliability. China must keep its promise. This condition is less worrying than others as China has a very good record in the international arena for its reliability and credibility — even in the turbulent times of the cultural revolution. Since the joint declaration is an international document between China and the United Kingdom, it is unlikely that China will break its record.

- Consistency. China has to be politically consistent in upholding the value of the concept "one country, two systems".

- Stability. China must maintain political stability and ensure succession of the leadership not only at the central level, but also at provincial and local levels.

- No more political campaigns. The possibility of political movement is now greatly reduced and seemingly unwelcome in present day China. It has been quite obvious to many observers that there is a weariness among the people after the political upheavals of the past 30 years, which has almost resulted in political apathy, if not a phobia.

- Continual effort to boost economy. National policy for accelerating economic development through the four modernisation programmes will be an effective incentive to maintain stability, and make Hongkong useful to the development of China.

- No intervention in the local affairs of Hongkong.

- Urban Reforms in China. The special administrative structure and the capitalistic structure will provide valuable reference for across-

the-board urban reforms in China, and will also help to tighten links between Hongkong and China.

Mr Deng Xiaoping recently announced that the rural reform in the programme started five years ago, has now entered its final stage and the urban reform programme based on the model of Shenzhen, which is so far closely following the pattern of Hongkong, will soon begin.

- Rationalisation of the concept of "one country, two systems". In the long run, China has to make it clear that the "one country, two systems" is not contradictory to the ideology of its socialist political structure. If not, China may have to pay a high price for making this concept work when ideological tolerance of the capitalism within its territories breaks down.

On the side of Hongkong, the four conditions required are:

- Positive and active contributions to the four modernisation programmes in China.

- A stable and consistent statutory government.

- Maintaining the freedom of the people.

- The industry and competence of the people.

Also present at the forum was Mr Wai Ka-cheung, a representative of the Hongkong Affairs Society, who pointed out that the "loose ends" of the joint declaration and the working mechanism of the "one country, two systems" concept should be substantiated in the Basic Law.

The students present at the forum raised the question of the role of Hongkong people in the formulation of the Basic Law.

While admitting Hongkong people would have a rather passive role to play, Mr M H Chan, representative of Meeting Point, encouraged the students to survey their views on the White Paper and send them to the Assessment Office, and also follow the development of the Basic Law closely.