

Agreement on Certificates of Identity

At the fourth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group, an agreement was reached between the Chinese and British sides on the arrangements for the continued use of Hongkong Certificates of Identity after June 30, 1997. In confirmation of this agreement the British and Chinese Governments exchanged memoranda in Beijing on November 27, the text of which are as follows:

British Memorandum

The Embassy of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the People's Republic of China have the honour to refer to the discussions in the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group on the question of Hongkong Certificates of Identity and related matters and the relevant provisions in Section XIV of Annex I to the Joint Declaration of the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the question of Hongkong.

The Embassy also refer to the exchange of memoranda between the Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated April 11, 1986.

To ensure that holders of Certificates of Identity will not experience difficulty when travelling abroad in the period immediately before and after 1997, the Hongkong Government will continue to issue Certificates of Identity with a 10-year validity during the period extending from July 1, 1987, to June 30, 1997, inclusive. It is the understanding of the United Kingdom Government that such Certificates of Identity may continue to be used after June 30, 1997, until their due expiry dates. It is further the understanding of the United Kingdom Government that any reference to "Hongkong" in Certificates of Identity issued by the Hongkong Government before July 1, 1997, will, on and after July 1, 1997, be taken to mean the "Hongkong Special Administrative Region" of the People's Republic of China.

To ensure that a Certificate of Identity is acceptable for the purpose of international travel before and after 1997, the following endorsement will be added to Certificates of Identity whose holders have the right of abode in Hongkong and hold permanent identity cards stating the right:

"The holder of this Certificate of Identity has Hongkong permanent identity card number (XYZ) which states that the holder has the right of abode in Hongkong."

The United Kingdom Government understands that the Government of the People's Republic of China will, when necessary, state to the governments of third countries that holders of Certificates of Identity carrying the endorsement preferred to in Paragraph 3 above will be entitled to return to the Hongkong SAR after June 30, 1997, and that any reference to "Hongkong" will be taken, on and after July 1, 1997, to mean the "Hongkong SAR."

The present Hongkong Certificate of Identity will be modified by:

(1) Front cover: removing

the crest at centre and leaving the space blank,
(2) Page one: removing the crest below the words "Certificate of Identity" and leaving the space blank,
(3) Page three: replacing "countries" by "parts of the world" in the first sentence and deleting the words "except China Macao",
(4) Page four and pages six to forty-four: replacing the overprinting of the crest by another security design,
(5) Page four: adding the following endorsement: "The holder of this Certificate of Identity has Hongkong permanent identity card number (XYZ) which states that the holder has the right of abode in Hongkong",
(6) Inside back cover: (A) deleting note 3 which states that the holder is not entitled to British consular protection, and (B) deleting the words "or to the nearest British High Commission or Consulate" from the second

To enable Certificates of Identity issued between July 1, 1987, and June 30, 1997, inclusive to be suitable for use after June 30, 1997, the United Kingdom Government will modify the present Certificate of Identity by introducing the changes described in the annex.

The United Kingdom Government understands that the Government of the People's Republic of China will, when necessary, state to the governments of third countries that holders of Certificates of Identity carrying the endorsement preferred to in Paragraph 3 above will be entitled to return to the Hongkong SAR after June 30, 1997, and that any reference to "Hongkong" will be taken, on and after July 1, 1997, to mean the "Hongkong SAR."

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The United Kingdom Government understands that the Government of the People's Republic of China will, when necessary, state to the governments of third countries that holders of Certificates of Identity carrying the endorsement preferred to in Paragraph 3 above will be entitled to return to the Hongkong SAR after June 30, 1997, and that any reference to "Hongkong" will be taken, on and after July 1, 1997, to mean the "Hongkong SAR."

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ment to issue, on and after July 1, 1997, in accordance with the law, passports of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China to all Chinese nationals who hold permanent identity cards of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region, and travel documents of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region.

The Government of the People's Republic of China to all other persons lawfully residing in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region.

To facilitate travelling abroad by holders of Certificates of Identity, the Government of the People's Republic of China will, when necessary, state to the governments of third countries that holders of Certificates of Identity carrying the endorsement as set out in Paragraph 3 of the United Kingdom Memorandum will be entitled to return to the Hongkong Special Administrative Region after June 30, 1997, and that any reference then to "Hongkong" will, on and after July 1, 1997, be taken to mean the "Hongkong Special Administrative Region" of the People's Republic of China.

The Central People's Government shall authorise the Hongkong Special Administrative Region Government and issue by

between July 1, 1987 and June 30, 1997 inclusive with the normal 10-year validity) to continue to be used after June 30, 1997 until their due expiry dates.

The Government of the People's Republic of China will agree that the Hongkong Government may add an endorsement to Certificates of Identity issued between July 1, 1987 and June 30, 1997 inclusive, to show the holder's right of abode in Hongkong where the holder has that right.

In accordance with the relevant provisions in Section XIV of Annex I to the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the question of Hongkong, the Government of the People's Republic of China will allow Certificates of Identity (modified as described in the annex to the United Kingdom Memorandum and issued by the Hongkong Government

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