

CHINA



Treaty Series No. 44 (1997)

# Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and the Government of the People's Republic of China

concerning the Establishment of a British  
Consulate-General in Hong Kong

Peking (Beijing), 26 September 1996

[The Agreement entered into force on 1 July 1997]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
July 1997*

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Cm 3711



**EXCHANGE OF NOTES  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BRITISH  
CONSULATE-GENERAL IN HONG KONG**

No. 1

*The British Embassy at Peking to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's  
Republic of China*

*British Embassy  
Peking (Beijing)  
26 September 1996*

Note No. 66/96

The Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and would like to propose, on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in implementation of the Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the question of Hong Kong, done at Beijing on 19 December 1984<sup>1</sup>, whereby it is provided that the United Kingdom may establish a Consulate-General in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and proceeding from the common desire further to develop friendly relations and strengthen consular relations between the two countries, that the Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the People's Republic of China hereby agree on the establishment of a British Consulate-General in Hong Kong as follows:

1. The Government of the People's Republic of China confirms its consent to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to establish a Consulate-General in Hong Kong with the consular district comprising the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
2. In accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963<sup>2</sup> and the relevant laws and regulations of the People's Republic of China, the Government of the People's Republic of China shall provide the necessary assistance for the establishment of the Consulate-General.
3. The like exemption from dues and taxes as shall be accorded to the premises of the Consulate-General shall be accorded to the residence of a consular officer of which the Government of the United Kingdom, or any person acting on its behalf, is the owner or lessee.
4. Articles 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the Agreement between the two Governments done at Beijing on the 17th day of April 1984<sup>3</sup> on the establishment of Consulates-General at Shanghai and Manchester shall apply to the Consulate-General to be established under the present Agreement.
5. Consular matters which are not dealt with in this Agreement shall be regulated by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 24 April 1963. Consular matters shall be handled on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and in a friendly and co-operative spirit.

If the above proposal is confirmed in a Note from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs representing the Government of the People's Republic of China, this Note and the reply from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall constitute an Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China. It shall enter into force on 1 July 1997.

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<sup>1</sup>Treaty Series No. 26 (1985) Cmnd. 9543.

<sup>2</sup>Treaty Series No. 14 (1973) Cmnd. 5219.

<sup>3</sup>Treaty Series No. 14 (1985) Cmnd. 9472.

*Beijing  
26 September 1996*

(96)部领五字第 84 号

大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国驻华大使馆：

中华人民共和国外交部向大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国驻华大使馆致意，并荣幸地收到大使馆一九九六年九月二十六日第 66/96 号照会，内容如下：

“大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国大使馆向中华人民共和国外交部致意，并谨代表大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国政府建议，为执行一九八四年十二月十九日于北京签订的大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国政府与中华人民共和国政府关于香港问题的联合声明中英国可在香港特别行政区建立总领事馆的规定，从进一步发展两国友好关系和加强两国领事关系的共同愿望出发，大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国政府与中华人民共和国政府就英国在香港设立总领事馆达成协议如下：

一、中华人民共和国政府确认同意大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国政府在香港设立总领事馆，领区为香港特别行政区。

二、中华人民共和国政府将根据一九六三年四月二十四日《维也纳领事关系公约》及中华人民共和国有关法律和

规定为总领事馆的设立提供必要的协助。

三、以英国政府或代表英国政府的任何人为房主或承租人的领事官员住宅将享有与总领事馆馆舍同样的免税待遇。

四、两国政府一九八四年四月十七日于北京签订的关于在上海和曼彻斯特设立总领事馆协议第三、五、六、七及八条将适用于根据本协议设立的总领事馆。

五、本协议未提及的领事事务将根据一九六三年四月二十四日《维也纳领事关系公约》予以规范。领事事务将本着友好合作的精神在平等互利的基础上予以处理。

如蒙外交部代表中华人民共和国政府来照确认上述建议,本照会及外交部的复照将构成大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国政府与中华人民共和国政府间的一项协议,并自一九九七年七月一日起生效。”

中华人民共和国外交部谨代表中华人民共和国政府确认上述照会内容。

顺致最崇高的敬意。

Translation of No. 2

(96) Bu Lin Wu Zi No. 84

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in China, and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of the latter's Note No. 66/96 of 26 September 1996 which reads as follows:

[As in No. 1]

On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China has the honour to affirm the content of the above Note.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the assurances of its highest consideration.



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