

China Destiny

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However, there remains a certain cause for regret in connection with the conclusion of these new treaties, namely, the fact that the question of the leased territory of Kowloon which was originally Chinese territory, was not settled in the new treaty [between China and Britain]. This leaves a stain on the cordial relations between China and England. On the day that the new Sino-British treaty [1942] was signed, however, our Government presented a formal note to England, reserving the right to recover Kowloon, which means that negotiations concerning Kowloon can be initiated at any time. What we must recognize is that there exists a definite geographical interdependence between Hong Kong and Kowloon, and that both questions must be settled at the same time. Obviously this is the reason for the British delay. We are confident, however, that the British Government will not allow the enduring friendship between China and England to be injured on account of this tiny plot of land.

The value of Hong Kong a barren rock 100 years ago and a flourishing commercial and industrial centre today, has been enhanced in the post-war years both for Chinese and Europeans. In a sea of trouble the Colony is a beacon of order and security to which business men from all countries, not least of all from China, have been flocking. In the light of the fate which befell Shanghai's International Settlement and French Concession, the value and importance of Hong Kong have been indisputable.

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