

that in China things always go two steps ahead and one step back. One can say that the situation [now] is normal."■

Facts about Hong Kong

●Population of Hong Kong (December 1997)

6.617 million.

Of these:

1.38 million live on Hong Kong island. (21.3%)

2.05 million live in Kowloon (31.6%).

3.05 million live in the New Territories (46.9%)

0.02 % dwell on the outer islands.

3.3million people live in public housing

●Vital statistics

The median age of Hong Kong's population is 34.9

18.1% of the population is under 15 years of age..

10.4% of the population is over 64 years of age.

The life expectancy for men is 76.4 year of age.

The life expectancy for women is 81.9 years of age.

The overall sex ratio is 1013 males per 1000 females

The birth rate is 9.1per 1000 population.

The death rate is 4.8 per 1000 population,

●Nationalities

95% of the population is of Chinese descent.

The largest foreign passport-holder group is Filipino: 146,400.

The next most numerous foreign passport holder groups are:

American, USA: 41,000

Indonesian : 34,300

Canadian 33,600

British 31,400

●Religion

The vast majority of people are either Buddhists or Taoists.

Others number as follows:

Christians: 592,500.

Muslims 80,000.

Hindus 12,000.

Sikhs 1,200.

Jews 1,000.