

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

TWENTY-SEVENTH CONGREGATION

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Social Science honoris causa

A Citation

Mr. Li Dak-sum, JP

As an essentially agricultural country, China has not always been able to recognise the important and beneficial role of trade and commerce. However, judging from the examples of legendary tycoons like Zi-Gong or Tao-Zhu, it certainly does not appear that China was lacking in entrepreneurial talents who could starting from scratch amass fabulous fortunes. Following sages' teachings and out of love for one's native land, the wealthy man usually turned to philanthropy, sponsoring schools, water works, almshouses and other worthy community projects, much in the same spirit as the present day Community Chest, that is, to return what is taken from society to where it comes from. And that is precisely the spirit which moves Mr. Li Dak-sum.

Born in Ningpao of Chekiang, the cradle of Chinese business magnates, Mr. Li came to Hong Kong shortly after he graduated in accountancy from Fudan University in Chungking. Starting with a dealership in electrical appliances, he soon built it by hard work and good judgment into a burgeoning business spreading all over Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, eventually turning it into a multinational corporation. Mr. Li is presently the Board Chairman or Managing Director of Roxy Electric Co. Ltd., Hong Kong and its many associated and subsidiary enterprises in Singapore and Malaysia, and also a director of the Union Bank of Hong Kong Ltd. Apart from membership on Government committees, his public service includes Council membership of Caritas, Hong Kong, and Principal Directorship of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals in 1969-70, to which he then served as Adviser in 1970-71. He was appointed a Justice of Peace in 1977.

Invited to serve on the Board of Trustees of New Asia College of the University in 1976, Mr. Li has since donated a number of scholarships to the Business Administration Faculty, and in 1980 generously donated to the University the Li Dak-Sum Building, which now houses part of the Faculty. In recognition of his contribution to Hong Kong business and to business administration education at this University, Mr. Chancellor, may I request Your Excellency to confer on Mr. Li Dak-sum the Degree of Doctor of Social Science honoris causa.

October 18, 1984.