

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

NINETEENTH CONGREGATION

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*

A Citation

Dr. Choh-Ming Li, KBE (Hon); B.A., M.A., Ph.D. (Calif.);
LL.D. (HK, Mich., Marquette, and W. Ontario); D.S.Sc. (Pitt.); J.P.

We are assembled in this Congregation to honour our founding Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Choh-Ming Li, who, after spending 15 productive years of his life in charting the course of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, retired on the 1st of October.

Among his many qualities, Dr. Li is a distinguished scholar and his life's work has been devoted to the promotion of Chinese Studies as well as Economics and Management Studies. He has made significant scholarly contributions. His pioneering publications, *Economic Development of Communist China* and *Statistical System of Communist China*, have remained works of classic importance. Despite his heavy duties and commitments, Dr. Li has compiled a Chinese dictionary.

Dr. Li is an idealist with a strong sense of mission to enrich Chinese Studies and to promote the blending of Eastern and Western cultures. As Director of the Centre for Chinese Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, he had already embarked on this important mission. In 1963, Dr. Li took up the challenge of being the first Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and his ideals have since been woven into the academic structure and programme of the new university.

As the Chief Academic Officer of the University, Dr. Li has tactfully managed to cement the complementary characteristics of the three constituent Colleges into a solid foundation for the University. Through his careful planning and skilful implementation, the University has achieved, stage by stage, co-ordination, integration

and re-organization, which culminated in the passage of The Chinese University of Hong Kong Ordinance in December 1976 and ushered the University into a new era.

In pursuance of his educational goal of seeking a meaningful interaction between Chinese and Western cultures, Dr. Li spared no effort in cultivating effective co-operation with Asian and Western universities with the help of foreign governments and foundations. Furthermore, the International Asian Studies Programme, which was introduced in the University in September 1977, is his another contribution, and more than 100 foreign scholars and students from different parts of the world have so far taken part.

Dr. Li has been regarded as a fund-raiser of considerable reputation. In addition to the full support of the government, substantial sums have been raised for the University from generous donors, both Chinese and non-Chinese in Hong Kong and overseas. This was evidence of the great confidence placed in the University under his leadership.

As a result of his multi-dimensional contributions to higher education, Dr. Li has already been richly honoured on numerous occasions, especially by the awards of the Knight Commander of the British Empire (Honorary) and honorary degrees from several leading universities in Hong Kong and abroad. Today, it is the turn of The Chinese University, which Dr. Li had guided for 15 constructive years, to honour its first Vice-Chancellor.

Mr. Chancellor, it is my privilege to request Your Excellency to confer on Dr. Li the Degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

October 2, 1978.