

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 461

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and, with reference to the March 25, 1997, Agreement between the government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China regarding the maintenance of the United States Consulate General in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the accompanying agreed minute of March 7, 1997 ("Agreement"), wishes to confirm that, on or after December 20, 1999, the Macau Special Administrative Region ("Macau") shall be an integral part of the consular district of the United States Consulate General in Hong Kong SAR, and that said Agreement, including the agreed Minute, shall govern the United States consular presence and services in Macau, and shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to Macau.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the United States of America,

Beijing, September 27, 1999



In anticipation of the July 1, 1997 Hong Kong revision, the United States and China signed an agreement regarding the maintenance of the United States Consulate General in Hong Kong.

That agreement, dated March 25, 1997, states that the United States Consulate General in Hong Kong will continue to perform consular functions in the Macau Special Administrative Region after December 20, 1999.

The Diplomatic Note delivered today reflects and confirms our prior understanding that the Macau Special Administrative Region will become a part of the consular district of the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong, and that our March 25, 1997 Agreement shall govern consular relations between the United States and Macau.

The Latin phrase "Mutatis Mutandis" means simply that the Agreement and the accompanying agreed minute shall apply to the Macau SAR in the same manner and to the same extent as they apply to the Hong Kong SAR, e.g. consular notification and access, presumptions of U.S. nationality for those dual U.S./Chinese nationals who enter Macau on U.S. passports, consular privileges and immunities, etc.

We request that you confirm this understanding by whatever means you believe would be most convenient. Possibilities in this regard include written confirmation of the note delivered today, or any other option you may like to suggest.