

Joint Secretariat for Colloquium of Religious Leaders

宗教領袖座談會聯合秘書處

c/o 8 Robinson Road, H. K.

香港羅便臣道8號轉交

12th November, 1981.

His Excellency the Governor,
Sir Crawford Murray MacLehose, GBE, KCMG, KCVO,
Government House,
Hong Kong.

Your Excellency,

Moral Education

You will recall that in July, 1980 we, the representatives of the six religions named below wrote, expressing our concern with problems of juvenile delinquency among our youth. We advocated greater attention to moral education in schools to counteract the increase in juvenile crime and in moral decay.

We are very gratified at the positive response to our suggestions and particularly wish to express our sincere gratitude for the invitation extended to us to participate in the Seminars on Moral Education for Heads of Secondary and Primary Schools organized by the Education Department this year.

At these Seminars, we put forward various proposals to improve the present education system, one of which was to provide a separate curriculum on moral education which we believe would play an important part in curbing a general decline in the conduct of present-day youth. We feel strongly that the increase in juvenile delinquency and youth associated crime (which is causing so much concern both to the Government and to the general public) is the result of the present examination-oriented education system which unduly emphasizes the transmission of knowledge without paying adequate attention to fostering personal growth as well as a sense of social responsibility in the student.

We are very pleased to note that Your Excellency has given attention to our earlier appeal, and in this regard we believe that the recent publication of the "General Guidelines on Moral Education in Schools" by the

Joint Secretariat for Colloquium of Religious Leaders

宗教領袖座談會聯合秘書處

c/o 8 Robinson Road, H. K.

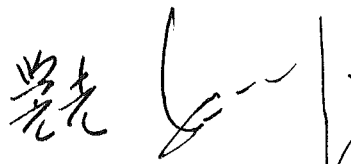
香港羅便臣道8號轉交


Education Department is an initial step in the right direction. In extension of the above and in order to ensure further development of Moral Education and to make its implementation more effective, we would like to offer a further suggestion for consideration by Your Excellency.

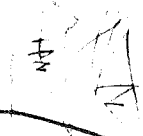
As a matter for long-term planning we wish to advocate the setting up of a standing central steering body composed of senior officials from various branches of Government who would work together with members of the public specialized in the subject. In this way there would be machinery to promote, develop and monitor Moral Education. At the same time we feel that community education is also essential and we would suggest that apart from the Education Department, other relevant departments, such as the Home Affairs Department, the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Urban Services Department, Recreation and Cultural Division, Social Welfare Department, Information Department, Royal H.K. Police Force, New Territories Administration, Radio Television Hong Kong, Television & Entertainment Licensing Authority etc. can all play their part and should be encouraged to devote more time and the benefits of their experience towards assisting in the future development of Moral Education among all the citizens of Hong Kong, both young and old.


Lastly, we would like to assure Your Excellency that we intend to do everything possible to make Moral Education in Hong Kong a success, and we shall be honoured to give whatever assistance we can at all times.


Yours faithfully,

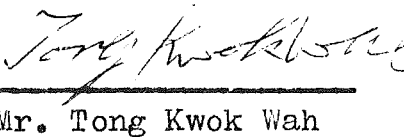

Rev. Kok Kwong &
Mr. Wong Wan Tin
The President &
Vice President,
H.K. Buddhist Asso.


Rev. Peter Wong
The Chairman,
H.K. Christian Council


Mr. Chow Yau
The Chairman,
Confucian Academy


Mr. Tuet Wai Sin
The Chairman
The Chinese Muslim
Cultural & Fraternal
Association


Rt. Rev. John Baptist Wu
Catholic Bishop of H.K.


Mr. Tong Kwok Wah
The Chairman,
The H.K. Taoist Asso.