

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
The Conferment of the Degree of  
Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, on 9th September, 1964.

CITATION

Sir Robert Black, G.C.M.G., O.B.E.

Sir Robert Black came to Hong Kong as Governor in 1958. During the previous decade the Colony had successfully weathered severe threats to its welfare brought on by social and economic change. Sir Robert led the community to an unprecedented prosperity in spite of the many problems caused by an explosive growth in population. His interest in the community's well-being, however, reached far beyond economic welfare. During his period as Governor, Hong Kong greatly expanded its vast housing estates for the underprivileged, its medical facilities and its educational opportunity. While he had to give first consideration to the drastic need for more primary and secondary schools, he also showed a special concern for Chinese higher education hitherto unavailable to most of the graduates of Chinese secondary schools. It was with his sympathetic backing that the three Post-Secondary Grant Colleges, which are now the Foundation Colleges of the University were given the necessary assistance to enable them to achieve university status. He also made it possible for the University to acquire the huge and beautiful university site at Ma Liu Shui. Finally, only five months after Sir John Fulton and his Commission had provided the guidelines, Sir Robert gave the ultimate impetus to bring the University into being. Indeed, but for Sir Robert's support at this stage, we might not be here today. His own words at the Inauguration Ceremony last October, spoken with acknowledged emotion, summed up the spirit with which he devoted himself to the creation of our institution. "I am seeing now," he said, "the consummation of hopes and dreams and plans, and the outcome of visitations, conferences and commissions, all in pursuit of the idea to which I myself have

long been wedded." Thus, as is altogether fitting, a most grateful university now proudly confers on Sir Robert Black the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.