

February 1, 1972

Embassy of the People's Republic of China
Ottawa
Canada

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your invitation to the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars to send 20-30 CCAS members to China for a month in early March. As requested in the letter from the China Administration for Travel and Tourism, Liaison Department of January 14, we wish to apply for entry visas and are enclosing the names, addresses, ages, and occupations of the delegates who have accepted your invitation. We have plans to enter China from Hong Kong on March 9 and to stay approximately one month.

After consulting with members of the CCAS delegation, we have agreed on certain principles related to our itinerary which we hope you will consider and which we think will enable us to achieve the deepest understanding of China today and to bring back information which will be of interest to a broad spectrum of people in the U.S.:

1) we would prefer to visit areas and particular institutions that other Americans, and particularly the first CCAS group, have not visited; 2) given the great size of our group, we hope, where possible when visiting any given place, we may divide into smaller groups to visit different institutions; 3) we hope to spend an extended period of time (perhaps a week or longer) in one place -- preferably an urban industrial area in the Northeast for part of the group, and a rural commune for the rest of the group; 4) we would like to spend a week in Peking, visiting all levels of Party and government officials and meeting with people in the embassies of the PRG, the DRV, the DRK, and the Royal Cambodian government; 5) we hope to spend considerable time in all kinds of educational institutions (universities, research institutions, middle schools, and primary schools); and 6) we would prefer to travel as simply as possible and stay in institutions and with families rather than in hotels.

Aside from these general principles, members of our group have expressed interest in visiting: autonomous areas or administrative units either within or outside of Han regions; the Northeast; prisons; courts; mental hospitals; centers for handling detoxification and drug addiction; homes for the aged; orphanages; the Canton commune for overseas Chinese; libraries; newspaper offices; party and government cadre and offices at all levels, including the lowest ones; student groups; women's groups; provincial cities; political study sessions; meetings with people who study the U.S. and Taiwan; Kung Fu cadre schools; as well as schools, hospitals, day-care centers, communes, and factories. We would welcome any opportunities for extended discussion on subjects of mutual interest with both national leaders and people of all walks of life.

We will be arriving in Hong Kong on March 7, so that communications after Feb. 28 should be made through our chapter in Hong Kong (c/o Raymond Whitehead, 118 Cambridge Avenue, Kowloon). Before that date, you may contact Louise Bennett who is acting as group coordinator (1207 Edgewood Avenue, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103; telephone #313-761-1920). In addition, we would welcome meeting with you in Ottawa and consulting with you in Hong Kong.

We must at this time raise one technical issue: In order for members of our group to enter Hong Kong without Hong Kong visas, they must upon entering have in hand evidence of departure from Hong Kong within 30 days. This can take the form of an outbound ticket or another expression of intention to leave. Could you please provide us with such evidence?

We are already making arrangements for speaking and writing on our return from China. We look forward to travelling to China with the greatest anticipation and bring the warmest greetings from all of the CCAS and the American people.

Sincerely,

Louise Bennett

Louise Bennett, Group Coordinator

CC. The China Administration for Travel and Tourism, Peking
Kowloon Branch of the China Travel Service