

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Order makes provision with regard to the British nationality status of persons who are British Dependent Territories citizens by virtue of a connection with Hong Kong in accordance with the terms of the Joint Declaration on the Question of Hong Kong reached between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of the People's Republic of China, under which British sovereignty and jurisdiction over Hong Kong will end on 1st July 1997.

Under Articles 3 and 4 those persons will cease to be British Dependent Territories citizens on that date but will before then be entitled to acquire a new form of British nationality, except where they are such citizens independently of a Hong Kong connection. The holders of the new status will be known as British Nationals (Overseas). The relevant connections with Hong Kong for the purposes of the Order are set out in Article 2.

Article 5 removes Hong Kong from the list of British Dependent Territories in Schedule 6 to the British Nationality Act 1981.

Article 6 contains provisions relating to statelessness.

Articles 7 and 8 amend various existing enactments so as to take account of the new status of a British National (Overseas).