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## PRC Officials Visit BYU-Hawaii Campus As Part of United States Tour

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Six education and political officials from the People's Republic of China spent nearly a week at Brigham Young University--Hawaii Campus in mid-December. Laie was their last stop on an extensive fact-finding trip that included meetings with government and education officials in Washington, D.C. and visits to seven other universities throughout the United States.

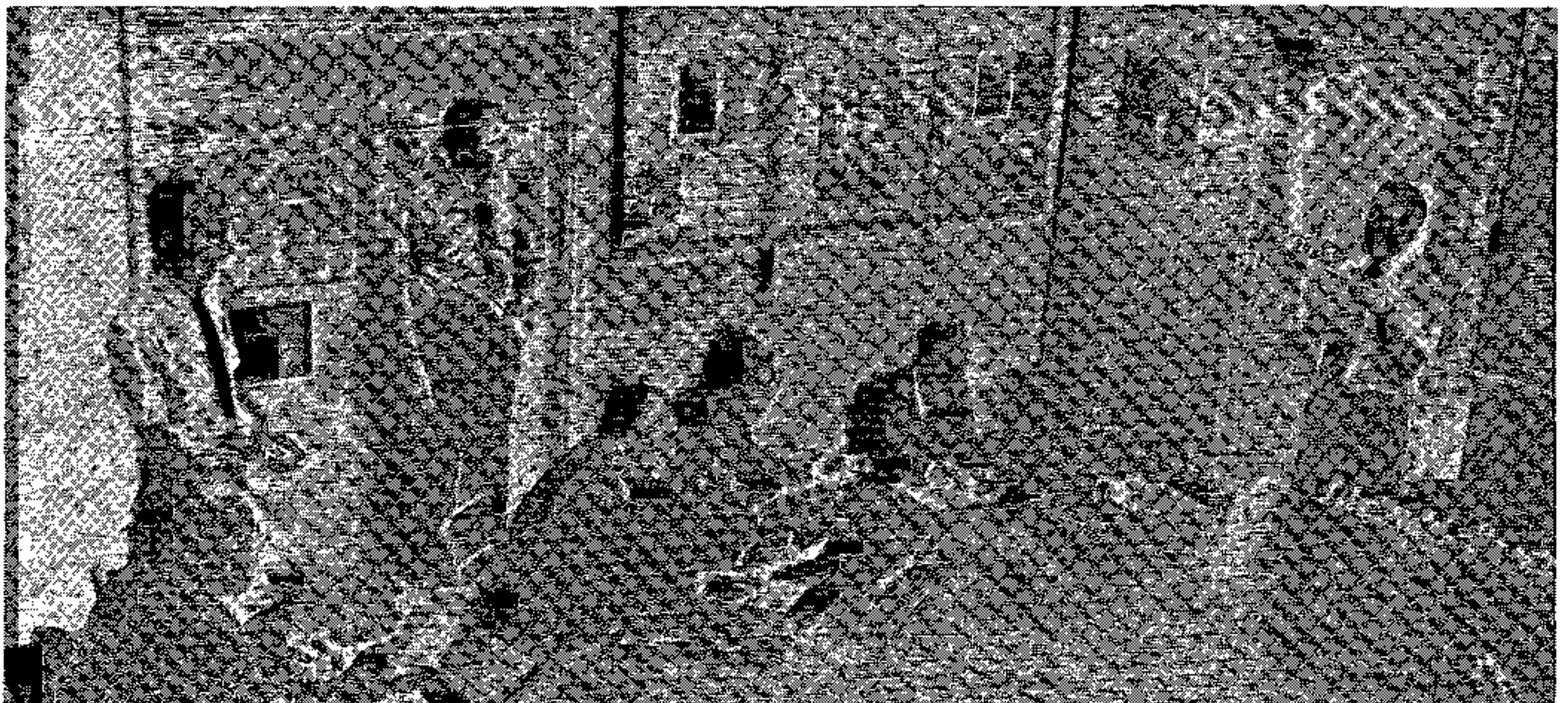
One of their main reasons for visiting Laie was to study BYU-Hawaii's TESL program, which has been preparing ESL teachers for nearly twenty years. Another of their interests was the English Language Institute, where international students at BYU-Hawaii can improve their English skills prior to enrolling in regular University courses. The integrated computer system used in BYU-Hawaii's Joseph F. Smith Library was also of considerable interest to the visitors.

The PRC visitors were Dong Hong-shu (Director of the Bureau of Higher Education, Liaoning Province), Lu Xiao Ping (Adviser

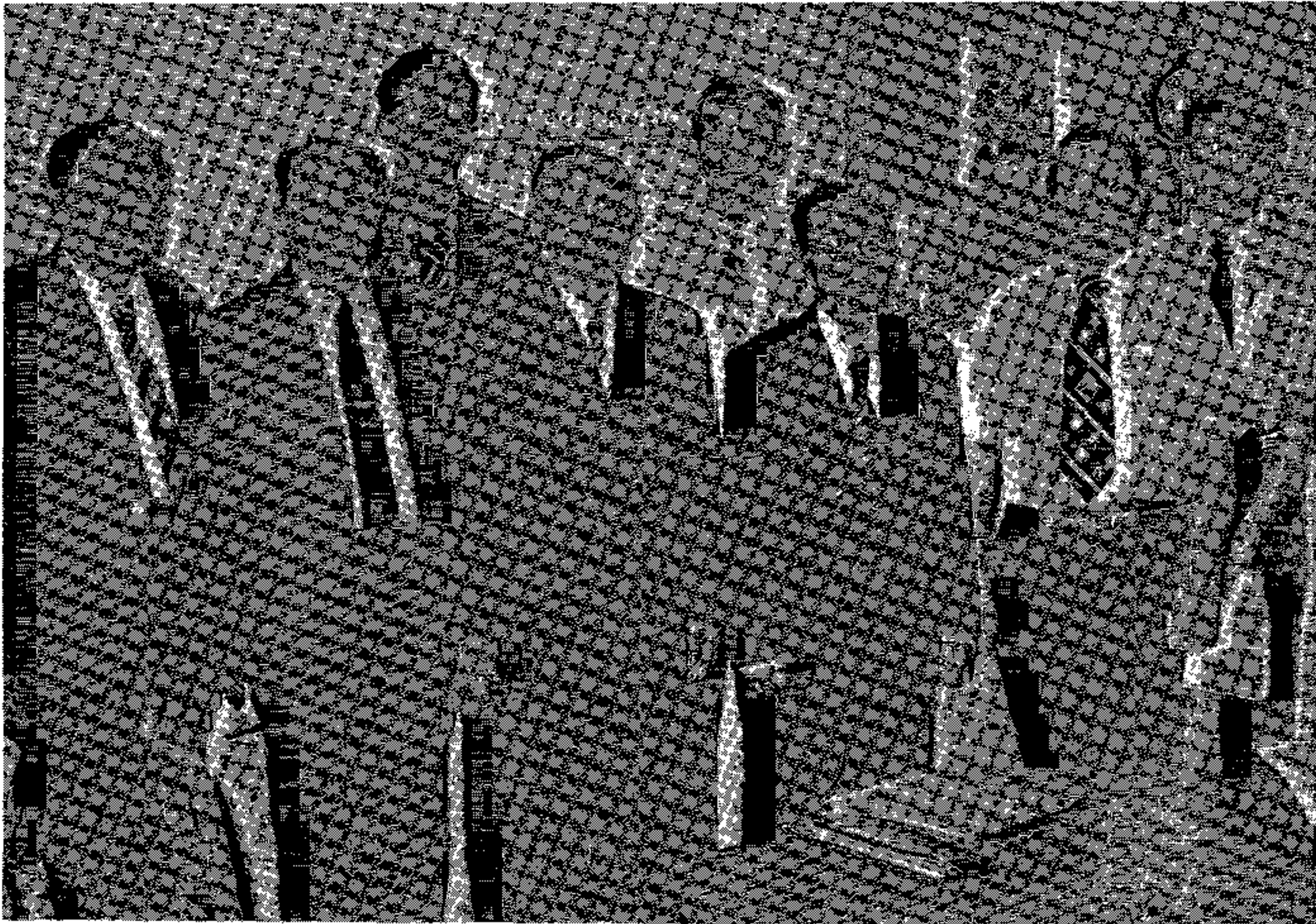
and Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office, Liaoning Province), Liu Wu (Translator and Deputy Director of Foreign Affairs, Liaoning Province), Liu Peng (Party Secretary, Liaoning University), Rao Hao (President of Liaoning Normal University), and Wang Rong Pei (Vice Dean of English, Dalian Institute of Foreign Languages).

Despite the language, culture, and climate differences between China and Hawaii, Dr. Dong, Director of Higher Education over more than fifty government-sponsored universities in the PRC, said he felt he was among "close friends" and very much "at home" during his stay at BYU-Hawaii.

This group of visitors from the People's Republic of China was the third delegation from that country to come to BYU-Hawaii in the past eighteen months. PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang visited the campus last January, and a group of educators from Beijing also met with BYU-Hawaii administrators and educators in Laie several months earlier.







PRC visitors pause for a photograph with their BYU-Hawaii hosts (story on p. 7)

## TESL Reporter

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