



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 December 1981

Visit to China, Hong Kong and Japan

The Prime Minister has seen Lord Carrington's minute of 15 December on this subject. She accepts the proposal that the Lord Privy Seal, when in Peking and Tokyo next month, should put down a marker that she hopes in principle to visit both countries, as well as Hong Kong, in the second half of September. As you know, the dates 16-29 September have been provisionally earmarked in the Prime Minister's diary.

The Prime Minister also accepts the general plan outlined by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary for the preparations for her visit in September and looks forward to receiving Lord Carrington's further thoughts on the Hong Kong problem in due course.

A. J. COLES

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

HL  
BF  
J  
AFC says  
not to chase  
it will look  
after itself.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

Sir Edward Youde

*MS*

The above is coming to see you tomorrow.

You asked to see him following your talk with Y.K. Pao the other day. I think you wished to give Sir E. Youde an account of that conversation and discuss its implications for your visit to China, Hong Kong and Japan next year.

We also need to settle before Christmas what the Lord Privy Seal can say, when he visits Peking and Tokyo next month, about your own plans for a visit. You will recall the Foreign Secretary's minute (attached) in which he recommends that we should tell the Chinese and Japanese that you hope in principle to visit in the second half of September.

We discussed the alternative, namely that you should go in the Easter Recess. I explained that:-

- a) President Mitterrand was expected to be in Japan (and possibly China as well) in mid April;
- b) The FCO judge that it will be a difficult and lengthy process to bring the Chinese to the point of readiness to discuss the future of Hong Kong. It is unlikely that they can be brought to this point by April. One or more discussions in OD are likely to be necessary.

A point I should have mentioned, but did not, the other day is that Sir Edward Youde, whose appointment to Hong Kong has just been announced, will have only just arrived in the Colony by the Easter Recess.

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*A.S.C. 27/12.*

22 December 1981