



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

27 August 1982

I find this very odd - I am already meeting members of the City/Fin Councils. Surely I should meet the members of the community who have really invested money to X we can do you agree in the time? put if

Dear Tim, *Prime Minister:*

Prime Minister's Visit to the Far East: 31/8
Hong Kong

25/8 X

In his letters of 20 and 25 August to Alan Logan, Michael Hall of our Protocol and Conference Department passed across a number of points from Hong Kong about the Prime Minister's programme. One of these was a recommendation from the Governor that the programme include a short meeting between the Prime Minister and a delegation of Urban District Councillors. In the Governor's view this would be helpful, in the context of consultation of Hong Kong opinion.

I am writing to confirm that we support the Governor's recommendation that the item be included.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

2 September 1982

Prime Minister's Visit to the Far East:
Hong Kong

We spoke about John Holmes' letter to Tim Flesher of 27 August, in which he confirmed that you supported the Governor's recommendation that the Prime Minister should meet a delegation of Urban District Councillors during her visit to Hong Kong.

The Prime Minister has commented that her programme already includes a meeting with members of the Legislative and Executive Councils. She attaches high priority to meeting members of the business community, who have actually invested in Hong Kong, and is not inclined to make room in her programme to meet a delegation of Urban District Councillors.

W. F. S. RICKETT

Chris Greenwood, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister

London SW1A 2AH

Sir E. Forde rang today to say that he thinks it important that you should consult the Urban Councillors about the future of Hong Kong.

3 September 1982

Agree to include in programme?

Yes - what concerns me is that I have no discussion meeting with the community who I know feel they are not being consulted.

A.J.C. 6/9

Dear John,

Prime Minister's Visit to the Far East:
Hong Kong

In his letter of 2 September, Willie Rickett said that the Prime Minister was not inclined to have a meeting with Urban Councillors in Hong Kong and preferred to meet members of the business community.

I think that we may not have explained properly the thought in the Governor's mind in making this suggestion. He sees it as an important part of the process of consulting (and being seen to consult) opinion in Hong Kong. The Urban Council is the equivalent of the City Council, responsible for civic matters for the central urban agglomeration, including Kowloon. It is quite separate from the Executive and Legislative Councils and its members generally represent a different group of people, including the professional middle class. There are some business people among them but in any case the suggested programme (about the overall nature of which I am writing to you separately) already contains four occasions for the Prime Minister to meet members of the business community: the dinner on 26 September; the business lunch and the reception on 27 September; and the opening of the Castle Peak Power Station on the 28th.

In the circumstances, we believe there is a good case for including a short meeting with the Urban Councillors (who have themselves asked for it) to demonstrate that every opportunity for consultation is being taken.

Yours ever

J E Holmes

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Private Secretary

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