



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 July 1982

Dear John

Prime Minister's Visit to Japan, China and Hong Kong

Thank you for your letter of 5 July to John Holmes. We have noted the Prime Minister's wishes on the programme and on the meetings about Hong Kong. We agree that it would be useful for Sir Percy Cradock and Sir Hugh Cortazzi to have separate meetings with the Prime Minister on 28 July.

In addition, it would be helpful to know the Prime Minister's views on which officials should attend the briefing meeting on the future of Hong Kong on 28 July. We suggest that, in addition to the Secretary of State and his FCO advisers, the Prime Minister might find it useful to have the advice of Sir Percy Cradock (who will be in England at the time) and Sir Edward Youde (who could usefully return for consultations at this stage). There should be no undue speculation about this and it would seem perfectly normal for the Prime Minister to get the views of the Governor before such an important visit.


The Prime Minister's dinner with the Chinese Ambassador on 12 July is a gesture of courtesy and is now the custom whenever particularly distinguished British visitors go to China. On such occasions it is not usually the Chinese practice to discuss substantive bilateral business, especially if the issues are contentious. Nor does Mr Pym think that there would be advantage in raising the question of the future of Hong Kong on this occasion. If, rather against the odds, the Ambassador seemed to want to probe our position, the Prime Minister might take the line that she was looking forward to discussing the question, which is obviously complicated, during her visit to Peking and that she hoped to make progress towards an eventual solution which would take account of both Governments' interests and the continuing prosperity of Hong Kong. There would of course be no harm in commenting on the existing helpful cooperation between China and Hong Kong and the excellent state of Sino-British relations.

At the dinner, the Chinese Ambassador is likely to make a short and general speech after the first or second course, in which he will call for a toast to the success of the Prime

/Minister's



Minister's visit (or, just conceivably, to The Queen).
The Prime Minister will be expected to say a few words in
reply, although as this is a formal exercise of goodwill
the Chinese will not expect anything of substance. I
enclose a note giving some points on which Mrs Thatcher
may like to draw.

Yours ever,


(B J P Fall)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



NOTES FOR SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER AT DINNER BY CHINESE
AMBASSADOR

1. Ambassador Ke [pron. Kur] a distinguished member of London Diplomatic Corps. Notable contribution over past four years to Sino-British relations. Generous host.
2. Long history of friendship between British and Chinese peoples: relations never better than today. Close understanding important to both countries and world peace.
3. Looking forward to September visit and to talks with Premier Zhao [Jow, rhymes with 'cow'], Vice-Chairman Deng [Dung] and Chairman Hu Yaobang [Hu Yow Barng].
4. Glad to be able to see China again. Warm memories of visit in April 1977: beautiful country and friendly people. China then just beginning to recover from 'Gang of Four'. Have read of much progress in last five years, now opportunity to see for myself: Chinese proverb 'One Looking is worth 10,000 Hearings'.
5. Propose toast to health of Ambassador and Mme Ke and to continued development of Sino-British friendship. [Toast to Chinese Head of State not necessary as no formal appointment has yet been made.]



10 DOWNING STREET

The Private Secretary

5 July 1982

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO JAPAN, CHINA AND HONG KONG

I put to the Prime Minister over the weekend the questions raised in your letters of 24 June and 2 July, together with the programme suggested in Hong Kong telegram No. 663 for the Hong Kong part of the tour.

As I explained to you on the telephone earlier today, the Prime Minister would like to postpone decisions on the programme until she has had the opportunity to discuss her visit with Sir Percy Cradock and Sir Hugh Cortazzi. For various reasons, I do not think it will be possible to arrange these calls until towards the end of this month. Unless it causes you difficulty, therefore, I shall aim to let you have the Prime Minister's firm views on the programme for the whole visit before she leaves for her summer holidays.

The Prime Minister has noted that it will be necessary to decide in the next few weeks how the difficult question of the future of Hong Kong should be handled during her Far Eastern tour. The matter will doubtless arise when Sir Murray McLehose pays his farewell call on Mrs. Thatcher on 23 July. Thereafter, we have arranged an informal meeting to discuss the question on 28 July (at 9.30 a.m.). I have it in mind, subject to any comments you may have, to ask Sir Percy Cradock and Sir Hugh Cortazzi to call on the Prime Minister at 1500 and 1530 hours respectively on that day. Perhaps you would kindly consult Brian Fall, with whom I discussed these matters the other day, and let me know if you see any difficulty in these arrangements.

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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cc to, Policy for China, China Sec
" " Japan; Japan Sec
Future of Hong Kong

Original in PM Tour Admin
for Far East Tour.

cc PM Tour
Admin for Far
East Tour