

cc Hong Kong Temp
Policy File



10 DOWNING STREET

FILE

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Copied to: Kenneth Baker's
Office (D/I)
FCO
D/Emp.
D/Trade

From the Private Secretary

9 August, 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 27 July, in which you suggest that she might visit the Castle Peak power station when she is in Hong Kong.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the Prime Minister has accepted an invitation from Lord Kadoorie, Chairman of China Light and Power Company Ltd., to perform the opening ceremony for the power station on 28 September. A formal announcement will be made shortly.

The Prime Minister has accepted the invitation because, like you, she considers that the success of this project reflects very favourably upon the hard work of all concerned including the British Companies involved and the China Light and Power Company itself.

TIMOTHY FLESHER

G. H. Laird, Esq.

cc Hong Kong: Trip Peking



DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
ASHDOWN HOUSE
123 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1E 6RB

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FROM THE
MINISTER OF STATE
FOR INDUSTRY AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-212
SWITCHBOARD 01-212 7676

Kenneth Baker's Office

A J Coles Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
Whitehall

9 August 1982

Dear Mr Coles
for signature
DK
akw.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO HONG KONG: CASTLE PEAK

On 29 July you sent John Rhodes at the Department of Trade a letter to the Prime Minister from Mr Gavin Laird, General Secretary Elect of the AUEW, in which he suggests that the Prime Minister might visit the Castle Peak power station while she is in Hong Kong.

I now attach a draft reply and I am sorry for the delay in replying. I understand that, although a formal announcement of the Prime Minister's visit has not yet been made, her visit to Hong Kong is public knowledge and the Foreign Office has no objection to a reference to it in the correspondence.

I am copying this to Francis Richards (FCO), John Rhodes (Trade) and Barnaby Shaw (Employment).

Yours sincerely
E A Riley

MRS E A RILEY
PRIVATE SECRETARY

M55/M55AAA



G H Laird Esq
General Secretary Elect
Amalgamated Union of Engineering
Workers
100 Peckham Road
London SE15 5EL

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29 July 1982

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO HONG KONG: CASTLE PEAK

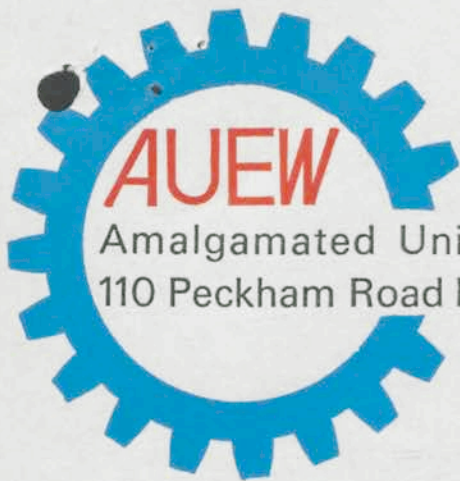
I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Gavin Laird, General Secretary Elect of the AUEW about the possibility of the Prime Minister visiting the Castle Peak Power Station project while in Hong Kong. I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft reply for my signature by 2 August.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Jonathan Spencer (Department of Industry), Francis Richards (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Barnaby Shaw (Department of Employment).

A. J. COLES

John Rhodes, Esq.,
Department of Trade.

[Handwritten signature]



AUEW

Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (ENGINEERING SECTION)

110 Peckham Road London SE15 5EL 01-703 4231

Telegrams EDIFYING LONDON SE15

SIR JOHN BOYD, C.B.E., General Secretary to whom all communications should be addressed

no ack sent 29/7
Please confine each letter to one subject

Our ref GH/DMK

Your ref

FIRST CLASS

27th July 1982.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Prime Minister,

On Wednesday, the 21st of this month, I visited Hongkong en route to London, having spent the previous ten days lecturing in Japan to my counterpart in the International Metalworkers' Federation Japanese Council.

I took advantage of being in the Far East to go to Hongkong specifically to visit the Castle Peak power station project as I had been involved in a peripheral sense with that project for many years.

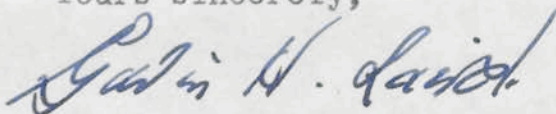
Whilst visiting this tremendously impressive project I understood from the British expatriates working there that there was a possibility of you visiting the site some time in September when you are en route to Peking.

I am taking the liberty of communicating with you to say two things. First of all, the Castle Peak project is a credit to all who are associated with it, be they G.E.C., Babcock Power or the Government Departments who did so much to ensure that the United Kingdom secured the order. It is particularly worthy of note that a similar project in another part of the new territories is being constructed by the Japanese who, I am delighted to say, are behind schedule compared to the U.K. project. This reflects the fact that the many tons of sophisticated equipment and parts required to construct the power station have been shipped on or before their due date and assembled on site in extremely confined physical conditions.

/continued

The second point I want to make is that if you do take the time to visit the site, then this will be considered by the people concerned with the project as an endorsement of their excellent effort and, as far as I am personally concerned, more important, could result in British workmanship getting praise rather than condemnation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gavin H. Laird".

Gavin H. Laird
Executive Councillor

General Secretary Elect