

HONG KONG : CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS AND STATEMENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
1793	Lord Macartney's <u>Embassy to Peking</u> : first British attempt to <u>normalise</u> trade relations	British request for trade relations <u>turned down</u>
1816	Second British Embassy under <u>Lord Amherst</u>	Rejected by Chinese
1839-42	First Anglo-Chinese War ('Opium War'): concluded in August 1842 by Treaty of Nanking (Nanjing)	Hong Kong Island was ceded to Britain and 5 Chinese ports opened to foreign trade (including Shanghai) where foreign 'concessions' were later established
1856-58	Following British efforts to expand trade with China, in the face of Chinese resistance, Second Anglo-Chinese War: Treaty of Tientsin (Tianjin) signed in June 1858	The Treaty accorded Britain the right to have resident diplomatic representative in Peking.
1859-60	Chinese forces attacked ships conveying the British representative to Peking to ratify the Tientsin Treaty and hostilities renewed.	
1860 (October)	Anglo-French occupation of Peking. <u>Old Summer Palace destroyed</u> . Ratification of the 1858 Treaty of Tientsin and of new Convention of Peking.	Kowloon Peninsula and Stonecutter's Island ceded to Britain
1898 (June/July)	2 Conventions of Peking	New Territories leased to Britain for <u>99</u> years. Weihaiwei (in Shandong Province) leased to Britain for duration of Russian occupation of Port Arthur. The agreements provided that Chinese officials would retain jurisdiction in Kowloon and Weihaiwei Walled Cities



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<u>1925-26</u>	General strike of Chinese workers in <u>Hong Kong</u> and boycott of British <u>goods</u> as part of general campaign against foreign privileges in <u>China</u> .	
1930 (April)	Anglo-Chinese agreement on return of <u>Weihaiwei</u>	Weihaiwei handed over to China in <u>1932</u>
1943 (January)	Sino-British Treaty signed: Britain renounced <u>extra-territorial rights in China</u> .	Concessions ended, but Britain resisted Chinese request for <u>termination of the New Territories Lease</u> .
1948	Chinese National Maritime Customs given the right to set up collecting stations in the Colony and patrol the Colony's waters.	
1949 (September)	Common Programme (adopted by Communist and allied parties) says that the People's Republic of China (PRC) must liberate all China and ''abolish the prerogatives of imperialist countries in China''; and that it will examine treaties concluded by the Kuomintang and ''recognise, abrogate, revise or renew them according to their respective contents''.	
1949 (October)	Establishment of People's Republic of China.	KMT moved to Taiwan to set up ROC. <u>HK courts</u> adjudicated on disposal of <u>Chinese property</u> , eg State commercial aircraft sheltering in the <u>Colony</u> . The decision to give title to the <u>aircraft</u> to the <u>Taiwanese</u> angered the PRC. Chinese troops appeared on the border but made no aggressive moves.
1950 (February)	British recognition of the PRC.	Few Western countries followed the lead. The Communists took only perfunctory notice.



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1950-53	Korean War	British troops with UN Forces in Korea fighting Chinese troops. <u>Hong Kong used as a staging point.</u> UN embargo on trade with China on a wide range of strategic goods.
1952	Immigration of many Chinese refugees from Shanghai.	Capitalist and industrial expertise to set up nucleus of textile industry in Hong Kong.
1954	Britain and China agree to exchange diplomatic representatives at Chargé level.	
1956	Riots in Hong Kong	Zhou En-lai delivered oral protest to British Chargé in Peking on riots in Hong Kong. Subsequently told journalists that the Chinese Government would not allow such disorder on the doorstep of China.
1960 (November)	Important agreement on supply of water from <u>Guangdong</u> to Hong Kong (agreed locally with Hong Kong 'British authorities').	Evidence of Chinese <u>de facto</u> willingness to assist Hong Kong's continued operation under British administration
1963	<u>People's Daily</u> describes questions of Hong Kong and Macao as ''relating to the category of unequal treaties left over by history'' adding that the status quo should be maintained until a settlement is negotiated ''when conditions are ripe''.	Further evidence of Chinese forbearance to press their claim to sovereignty.
1964	Chinese delegation at a youth conference in Moscow objects to resolution calling for independence of Hong Kong and Macao among various colonial territories; asserts that they are Chinese territory which will be recovered at any appropriate time.	



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1967	Left-wing agitation in Hong Kong inspired by <u>Cultural Revolution</u> . Chinese Government did not authorise all-out attack on Hong Kong Government.	Made Hong Kong people aware of Hong Kong's vulnerability but relieved that China did not go further, <u>even at a period of extreme radicalism</u> .
1967	Zhou En Lai criticised <u>British</u> action in curbing left-wing agitation in Hong Kong inspired by Cultural Revolution. Said 'Hong Kong and Kowloon have always been China's territory. The destiny of Hong Kong will be decided by <u>our compatriots in Hong Kong and 700 million Chinese people and definitely not by a handful of British imperialists</u> '.	
1971 (June)	Zhou En Lai to Mr Malcolm MacDonald: ' <u>..no parallel between Taiwan and Hong Kong .. China does not intend to recover Hong Kong until the expiry of the New Territories lease</u> '.	
1971	Britain and China agree to exchange Ambassadors.	
1971	Withdrawal of British military presence East of Suez except for Hong Kong	
1972 (March)	Chinese Ambassador to the UN: 'Hong Kong and Macao are part of Chinese territory . . . The settlement of the questions of Hong Kong and Macao is entirely within China's sovereign right and does not fall under the ordinary category of colonial territories'. . . [they] should be settled in an appropriate way when conditions are ripe'.	Major formal statement of Chinese position frequently repeated in <u>international bodies</u> .
1972 (November)	Zhou En Lai to Sir A Douglas-Home: 'The question of Hong Kong should be settled <u>by negotiations</u> . . . China would take <u>no surprise action</u> with respect to Hong Kong'	

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
1974	Local agreement between Hong Kong and China on <u>returning illegal immigrants to China</u>	First sign of pragmatic Chinese approach since start of Cultural Revolution
1977	Li Quiang (then Minister of Foreign Trade) wrote in 'Red Flag' magazine: 'Hong Kong and Macao are part of China's territory; 98% of their population are our compatriots'.	
1979	Deng Xiaoping to Sir M MacLehose, during the latter's visit to Peking. Any solution would have as its prerequisite that Hong Kong is part of China, but .. China would <u>respect Hong Kong's special status</u> . . . Hong Kong would be continuing with a <u>capitalist system</u> while China was continuing with a socialist system. <u>By 1997 China might take over Hong Kong.</u> But this would not affect its <u>economy</u> . Investors should put their hearts at 'ease.'	Temporary boost to confidence in Hong Kong
1979	Hua Guofeng, in a Press Conference before visiting Britain: 'As to questions relating to Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories, we think that a good way of settling them should be sought through negotiations. But I think regardless of how the matter is settled we will take notice of the <u>interests of the investors there</u> '.	
1980	Agreement reached whereby all illegal immigrants from China apprehended in Hong Kong could be returned	Further evidence of pragmatic approach
1981 (April)	Deng Xiaoping to <u>Lord Carrington</u> during the latter's visit to Peking, reaffirmed assurances about security of investments in Hong Kong; added that in considering Hong Kong Britain should look at Chinese <u>policy on Taiwan</u>	Qualified aid to confidence. But concern in <u>Hong Kong</u> that <u>problem not tackled in more concrete way.</u>
1981 (September)	Ye Jianying announces Nine Point Proposal for Taiwan	

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>EFFECT</u>
1982 (January)	Vice Premier Ji Pengfei to Mr Humphrey Atkins (then Lord Privy Seal) during the latter's visit to Peking: The Chinese would preserve the interests of 'existing industrialists and business circles' in Hong Kong. They would not confiscate the assets of capitalists. China <u>recognised that a decision on Hong Kong's future could not wait until 1997</u> ; the two sides could at some time in the future hold talks on the issue.	
1982 (January)	Premier Zhao Ziyang to Mr Atkins: China's 'general stand' on the future of Hong Kong consisted of <u>two points</u> : (1) China would <u>safeguard her sovereignty</u> (2) Hong Kong's <u>prosperity would be maintained</u> . It would remain a centre of trade and a free port. Very careful studies would be made in approaching a settlement on the issue. At an appropriate time China would discuss the problem 'with <u>various circles</u> ' in Hong Kong and all the <u>parties concerned</u> . Zhao also referred to China's proposals regarding Taiwan (the essential point of which is that China would agree to continuation of the existing system in Taiwan in return for acceptance of reunification by the <u>Taiwan authorities</u>)	Further temporary boost to confidence
1982 (February)	The left-wing periodical Cheng Ming reported in July/August a speech made in February by Party Chairman Hu Yaobang: Hu referred to ' <u>allowing two kinds of social systems in one country to solve the problems of the reunification of Taiwan and of recovering sovereignty over Hong Kong and Macao.</u> ' He also referred to Lenin's policy of 'making contact with <u>international capital</u> ' and spoke of regaining <u>sovereignty over Hong Kong and Macao as 'not something in the remote future'</u> .	
1982 (April)	During Mr Heath's visit to Peking, Deng Xiaoping sought Mr Heath's views on the British reaction to an arrangement based on the spirit of the ' <u>9-point principles</u> ' for Taiwan. Deng suggested that China would have sovereignty over Hong Kong, but Hong Kong would remain a free port and international financial centre; foreign investment would not be affected and it would be managed by	

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its inhabitants including foreigners resident there. Deng added that the local government could be formed by the inhabitants whether Chinese, British or of other nationalities; it could use the name 'Hong Kong, China' and manage its own non-governmental trade relations with other countries. Deng said that if the Chinese government did not recover sovereignty over Hong Kong it would 'not be accountable to its own people', adding that he was referring to sovereignty over the whole area, not just the New Territories.

1982
(June)

Deng Xiaoping to the Vice Chancellor of Hong Kong University, Dr Rayson Huang, on 2 June: China had to act in a principled manner ... her territorial integrity could not be compromised. The issue of Hong Kong had to be settled in the next year or so. China's proposals for Taiwan could provide the basis for future arrangements for Hong Kong. Prosperity and stability of Hong Kong were important but if China did not recover sovereignty 'the people would rise against the Communist party'. The present life style of the people would be allowed to continue. There would be no change in the present law and currency.

1982
(June)

Hong Kong Periodical Pai Shing reports that Deng Xiaoping told a group of left-wing visitors from Hong Kong that China would regain sovereignty over Hong Kong and would seek appropriate measures to maintain Hong Kong's stability and prosperity to enable this free port to continue to play its role.

1982
(July)

Hong Kong press reports statements by National People's Congress Vice Chairman Peng Zhen drawing attention of people in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan to new constitutional provisions for Special Administrative Regions

Understood in Hong Kong as as implying Chinese intention to assume some form of control over Hong Kong. Taken with Deng's remarks above, contributed to fall on Hong Kong Stock Exchange



PRIME MINISTER
FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

SPECIAL BRIEFING

To Be Retained

Do Not Destroy

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIST OF BRIEFS

1. Introduction. Tactics
2. Labour Government Statements on HMG Commitment
3. Draft Press Statement on Hong Kong
4. Draft Aide Memoire
5. Chronology of Major Events and Statement
6. Draft Opening Statement
7. Form and Structure of Negotiation
8. Further Defensive Points
9. Possible Acceptable Package
10. Possible Concession which might be made during negotiation
11. Possible Chinese objections and suggested responses
- 11a. Answers to Criticisms Chinese Leaders may make
12. FCO Special Study
 - (a) Treaty of Nanking 1842
 - (b) Text of Second Convention of 1898
 - (c) Map of New Territories
 - (d) Chinese Proposals on Taiwan
 - (e) Consultation on Hong Kong
 - (f) Options and Solution and Legislative Requirements
 - (g) Constitutional Position of Hong Kong
 - (h) External Relations
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 - (j) Defence and Internal Security
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 - (l) Legal System on Hong Kong
 - (m) External Trade
 - (n) Civil Aviation and Shipping
 - (o) Crown Land Leases in New Territories
 - (p) Illustrative Questions and Answers Following Prime Minister's Visit to China.