



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 September 1982

Prue Muntz

Dear Tim,

Visit by the Governor of Hong Kong
and 5 UMELCO Members: 5-9 September
1982

You may like to see the attached record of the Governor's comments to the press when the party arrived back in Hong Kong on 10 September.

The party's visit to London, in particular their meeting and lunch with the Prime Minister, was the subject of wide and very favourable reporting in Hong Kong. The announcement that the Governor would accompany Mrs Thatcher during her visit to China was also very well received.

Yours ever,

for (J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

Janie Richard

T Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

GOVERNOR GOING TO PEKING
* * *

THE GOVERNOR, SIR EDWARD YOUDE, CONFIRMED THIS (FRIDAY) EVENING THAT HE WILL BE JOINING THE PRIME MINISTER, MRS MARGARET THATCHER, ON HER VISIT TO PEKING LATER THIS MONTH.

SIR EDWARD ANNOUNCED THIS WHEN ASKED BY NEWSMEN AT THE AIRPORT ON HIS RETURN WITH FOUR UMELCO MEMBERS FROM LONDON.

SIR EDWARD: THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TO WELCOME US BACK. WE HAD A VERY GOOD TRIP TO LONDON AND I THINK I CAN SAY THAT IT IS A VERY ENCOURAGING TRIP. WE SAW NOT ONLY THE PRIME MINISTER BUT WE SAW THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND WE SAW LORD BELSTEAD AND AFTER THAT WE MET WITH QUITE A FEW OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN HONG KONG AND ALL OF THEM WERE VERY KEENLY INTERESTED IN WHAT WE HAD TO SAY, IN PARTICULAR WHAT THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS HAD TO SAY.
I THINK YOU KNOW THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO HEAR AT FIRST HAND THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON THE FUTURE, AND FROM THE STATEMENT WHICH WAS ISSUED BY NO. 10 DOWNING STREET AFTER OUR TALK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD ASSURED THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS THAT IN HER DISCUSSIONS IN PEKING SHE WOULD FULLY REPRESENT THE VIEWS AND THE INTERESTS OF PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

SO I THINK ALL IN ALL IT WAS TO US A VERY SUCCESSFUL AND VERY ENCOURAGING TRIP.

REPORTER: SIR EDWARD, CAN YOU NOW TELL US WHETHER YOU WOULD BE AMONG MRS THATCHER'S TEAM?

SIR EDWARD: YES, I SHALL BE JOINING THE PRIME MINISTER IN PEKING.

REPORTER: AND WHAT ABOUT LORD MACLEHOSE ?

SIR EDWARD: I HAVEN'T ANY NEWS TO YOU EXCEPT ME. WHOEVER IS GOING TO PEKING OTHER THAN MYSELF I MUST LEAVE TO NO. 10 TO ANNOUNCE.

REPORTER: THERE HAVE BEEN PERSISTENT REPORTS THAT CHINA HAS RECENTLY INFORMED LONDON THAT IT WILL REGAIN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF HONG KONG.....

SIR EDWARD: WE WERE NOT THERE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE SAID TO LONDON. WE WERE THERE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG WANTED TO SAY. SO I THINK PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS WELL WE SHOULD CONFINE THE QUESTIONS TO THAT.

/REPORTER: COULD

REPORTER: COULD YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT WHAT WAS, PERHAPS, THE SORT OF VIEWS PUT FORWARD BY YOURSELF AND UNOFFICIALS TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

SIR EDWARD: SIR S.Y. YOU DID MUCH OF THE TALKING....

SIR S.Y. CHUNG:

I THINK WE WERE ABLE TO CONVEY A VERY FULL AND COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF ALL THE VIEWS AND WISHES THAT WE HAVE SEEN IN THE NEWSPAPERS IN HONG KONG - THE PRESS, THE MEDIA - THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE WRITTEN TO US, PETITIONS MADE TO UMELCO AND STATEMENTS MADE BY A LARGE NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS IN HONG KONG, AND OF COURSE A NUMBER OF MAJOR OPINION SURVEYS CARRIED OUT IN HONG KONG RECENTLY.

WE WERE ABLE TO REFLECT ALL THE VIEWS AND WISHES AND WE WERE GIVEN A VERY GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT.

REPORTER: CAN YOU SINGLE OUT ONE PARTICULAR VERY DEFINITE POINT OF VIEW OF THE HONG KONG PUBLIC THAT YOU HAVE CONVEYED TO THE UK GOVERNMENT?

SIR EDWARD: PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY THAT I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA WHEN YOU HAVE A SUBJECT AS IMPORTANT AS THIS ONE TO TRY TO GO IN FOR SIMPLIFIED PHRASES. I THINK AS SIR S.Y. HAS SAID, THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS IN A VERY WIDE RANGE OF PUBLICATIONS, OPINION POLLS AND ALL THAT KIND OF THING AND WHAT THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS DID, AND I CAN CERTAINLY GIVE YOU AN ASSURANCE OF THAT BECAUSE I WAS THERE TO HEAR THEM, WHAT THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS DID WAS TO GIVE A FAITHFUL AND VERY COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF ALL THOSE VIEWS. AND I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL GIVEN THE STATE WE ARE IN TO TRY AND SUM THEM UP IN A FEW SIMPLE PHRASES.

REPORTER: DO YOU BELIEVE YOU CHANGED ANY OF MRS THATCHER'S IDEAS ON THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG OR DO YOU FIND YOURSELF MORE OR LESS IN AGREEMENT ON THE POINTS YOU COVERED?

SIR EDWARD: I THINK YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK MRS THATCHER THAT QUESTION WHEN SHE COMES HERE. BUT I DO KNOW THAT IT WOULD BE VERY OBVIOUS TO YOU IF SHE LISTENED VERY KEENLY TO WHAT WAS BEING SAID TO HER BECAUSE WE WERE THERE FOR A TOTAL OF TWO HOURS AND ALTHOUGH WE WERE IN PART ENJOYING AN EXCELLENT LUNCH WE WERE ALSO TALKING THROUGHOUT THE LUNCH. SO WAIT A COUPLE OF WEEKS AND TRY THE QUESTION AGAIN.

/REPORTER: WAS

- REPORTER: WAS THERE ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR THAT SHE WAS INTERESTED TO KNOW ABOUT HONG KONG?
- SIR EDWARD: I WOULDN'T SINGLE OUT A PARTICULAR SUBJECT. I THINK AS YOU KNOW SHE'S BEEN HERE BEFORE SO SHE HAS QUITE A KNOWLEDGE OF HONG KONG ALREADY, AND A GREAT INTEREST IN IT, AND I THINK SHE WAS REALLY SEEKING FOR A VERY WIDE RANGING TALK ABOUT HONG KONG, ABOUT THE CLIMATE OF OPINION HERE, ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG SINCE SHE WAS HERE AND THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE ON THE FUTURE.
- REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE ALREADY HAD A STAND ON THE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG?
- SIR EDWARD: I THINK THAT THE OBJECT OF OUR VISIT WAS, AND THE REASON WE WERE INVITED, WAS THAT WE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE PREPARATIONS WHICH WERE BEING MADE FOR THAT VISIT AND OBVIOUSLY THEY WERE MUCH CONCERNED TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE HERE BEFORE THEY DO COME TO CONCLUSIONS.
- REPORTER: WHAT DO YOU EXPECT WILL COME OUT OF MRS THATCHER'S TRIP TO PEKING?
- SIR EDWARD: I THINK I'VE SAID IT SO OFTEN BUT PERHAPS IT WOULD BEAR REPETITION THAT I'M VERY CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE, BUT I'VE ALWAYS SAID I DO NOT EXPECT IT ALL TO BE SETTLED IN ONE GO; BUT HER VISIT WILL BE A VERY IMPORTANT EVENT AND I DO EXPECT PROGRESS STEP BY STEP.
- REPORTER: DO YOU THINK HONG KONG CAN MAINTAIN ITS FINANCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONFIDENCE IF THERE IS NOT A CLEAR-CUT STATEMENT?
- SIR EDWARD: WELL, I THINK HONG KONG IS ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS FINANCIAL AND GENERAL CONFIDENCE, AND I WOULD EXPECT THAT TO CONTINUE.
- REPORTER: DO YOU KNOW WHOM MRS THATCHER WILL BE MEETING IN PEKING?
- SIR EDWARD: I THINK HER PROGRAMME WILL BE FOR NO. 10 (DOWNING STREET) TO ANNOUNCE RATHER THAN FOR US.
- REPORTER: SIR, ARE YOU GOING TO PEKING BY YOURSELF STARTING FROM HONG KONG OR ARE YOU GOING BACK TO UK FIRST?
- SIR EDWARD: MY PLAN AT THE MOMENT IS TO START FROM HONG KONG.