

file

PRIME MINISTER

Media in Hong Kong

I have done you a separate brief on your press conference which is probably the most important single event in terms of your overall objective. But I think you ought to have a note on the media in Hong Kong since you have had only a mild foretaste of it in China.

The truth is that with scores, if not yet 100, daily newspapers, this territory is grossly over-populated with journalists and more especially still photographers. Radio and TV are much less of a problem.

The effect of the jostling herd, and their reluctance in Hong Kong to pool resources, is to keep both journalists and photographers at greater distance than might otherwise be possible.

Our objective is to have you seen to advantage showing the flag and meeting the people consistent with good order and discipline.

Your travelling media already know the problem and accept, I believe, that we and Government House are doing our best for them. They also accept that because of transport problems they cannot be everywhere; therefore only part of the travelling group may be at some events. They will however pool their resources.

I have the following additional points:-

- Do not forget that if you decide to do something on the spur of the moment you can start a minor riot so large are the number of photographers following you around.
- I do not think you ought to pause and speak to the media as you pass their enclosure after opening

/Castle



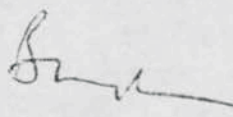
Castle Peak Power Station; if you pause and say something into one microphone there will be an avalanche and we must avoid that.

- I am sure it would go down well with the people of Hong Kong if those attending your reception tomorrow evening could be seen meeting you on television; we are therefore arranging a strictly limited photographic pool.
- We are severely restricting the photographic facility at the home of the family on the housing estate.
- On the Mass Transit Railway I propose to make a last minute selection of a small pool from the following army of photographers to photograph you in your part of the coach; we need to promote Metro Cammell's success on this Underground.

Finally I made the point on the plane that because of a rival attraction at home you may think it a good idea to give short interviews summing up your entire tour to BBC, ITN and IRN with PA sitting in for the newspapers as a whole, after your farewell drink.

If they are to do this, however, they will need to bring their equipment to Government House. I do not think we should commit ourselves at this stage to interviews. Content therefore for me to operate on the basis that there is a possibility, but only a possibility, that you might give them a summing up of the tour?

26 September 1982

  
BERNARD INGHAM



PRIME MINISTER

Press Conference - Hong Kong

cc Governor  
Ambassador  
Butler  
Coles Johnson  
Gray Kydd  
Donald Ingham  
Bray

Objective

This will be the most critical and difficult Press Conference of your tour - difficult because of the sheer numbers involved and critical because, while your objective remains the same (to keep confidence in Hong Kong afloat) you cannot say anything more in substance than in Peking.

The trick, I think, is to leave Hong Kong with the strong feeling that you intend to keep in close touch with Hong Kong opinion, that you have their interests at heart and intend to pursue them vigorously and that confidentiality between the participants in the talks, however frustrating for the media, is essential to their success. Your aim on this tour has been to establish for the talks ahead confidence between yourself and the Chinese leaders and between yourself and representatives of Hong Kong opinion. You believe that objective has been achieved and you propose to do nothing to damage it.

Having said that, I think you can loosen up that little bit on Peking on the lines of your television interviews on Friday night (see annex 1 for transcript), most notably by rehearsing the Treaty history and your view of how Treaty obligations should be dealt with.

One question that will almost certainly come up is the time-scale for the talks. In your answer to Jim Biddulph (BBC) in Peking you said they would take "some months". This has been repeatedly raised with me and I have told journalists that you are <sup>were</sup> trying to get over that the process would take some time.

We cannot take a final view of how you treat your Press Conference until you see the markets tomorrow and know how your meetings with UMELCO and the businessmen go. I hope however that you will make an opening statement for the TV and Radio record. I shall draft one, plus a Question and Answer brief, ready for your pre-Press Conference briefing. We have set aside

/ an hour



an hour from 3.30 for this purpose.

Your opening statement should rehearse your programme and bring out the range of Hong Kong life that you are seeing for yourself. I attach at annex 2 the Question and Answer brief we prepared for Peking; this is still valuable.

Earlier events

Such is the nature of Hong Kong that I am sure, notwithstanding your Press Conference in the afternoon, we should issue some agreed statement from your meeting with UMELCO. This might go no further than say that you have given the members an outline of your talks in Peking; that a useful discussion followed; that you have assured UMELCO members that you will keep in close touch with them during the course of the talks in Peking; that you expressed satisfaction with the outcome of your visit both to Peking and Hong Kong whose interests you are committed to represent; /and finally some bilateral issues were discussed including . . . . . /

Such a statement would of course to some extent set the tone for your Press Conference. But I strongly believe it would be dangerous to leave a vacuum after the UMELCO meeting, especially in the light of the Governor's advice that the way to deal with Hong Kong media is at least to say something even if it adds up to nothing.

You will of course be on the record and televised live at your businessmen's lunch. You could insert a few words about the UMELCO meeting on that occasion but, to repeat, I believe it is necessary to issue an agreed statement from your meeting with UMELCO itself.

Mechanics

The Press Conference will be in the Legislative Council Chamber. We expect a lot more than those at Peking. I shall try to keep photographers at a reasonable distance; otherwise they will wreck the show.

/ I will



I will chair the proceedings and I suggest that the Governor and Sir Percy Cradock should again be at the top table. I think there would be presentational advantage in the Ambassador being there and the Governor agrees. It would be helpful for the talks if you went out of your way during the Press Conference publicly to express your fullest confidence in the Governor and the Ambassador.

Again I believe that 45 minutes will be ample for the Press Conference and I hope you will allow me to close it promptly. Here, more than in Peking, they will seize every opportunity to prolong it and try to embarrass you into some indiscreet remark. The longer it goes on after it has run its natural course the more dangerous from your point of view.

Substance

At this distance the main areas of questioning are likely to be:

How do you feel your talks in Peking have been received?

Do you still believe your confidential approach is best calculated to maintain confidence?

Just how long will the talks with Peking take to resolve this matter?

Sovereignty/British administration/ confidence; plus possibly:

bilateral issues - textiles, Guangdong power station, Nationality Act, student fees, Vietnamese refugees.

You should be prepared to give the people of Hong Kong a message. I offer the following:

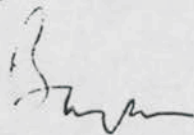
"I have seen once again the vigour and dynamism of Hong Kong's free enterprise. It is very impressive indeed. Hong Kong's success in creating wealth

benefits millions of people not merely in Kong Kong and China but in South East Asia and beyond. This is recognised in Peking and we agreed there our common aim is to maintain the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong. The talks on which we are about to embark have that clear objective in view and you can be assured we shall pursue it."

Radio and Television

The Hong Kong media will no doubt broadcast your Press Conference live. But you have an audience of people ~~too~~ back home. I would urge you to give the usual short news interviews with BBC Radio and TV, ITN and IRN even though time will be short. We will try to set aside an adjoining room for this purpose.

Content?



26 September 1982



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me say first how delighted I am to be back in Hong

Kong after five years and how proud I am to be

the first British Prime Minister in office to

visit the territory.

Such a visit has been long overdue.

There can be no doubt of the close and continuing link

between Britain and Hong Kong.

Hong Kong ~~has~~ this year <sup>is taking more exports from</sup> ~~become~~ Britain's ~~largest~~  
~~trading partner~~ <sup>than any other market</sup> in Asia.

As I told businessmen at lunch today there is still

scope for more trade in both directions - it is in

our mutual interest.

The economic links in themselves indicate our

commitment to Hong Kong.

/As you

As you know, on this tour I have also been to Japan and

China - Peking, Shanghai and Canton.

*Levery where*

~~In China~~ I was made very welcome and I would like

to pay tribute ~~here, too,~~ to the ~~warmth of the~~

~~Chinese~~ hospitality. *remind*

~~In China,~~ This warmth also set the tone for our official

discussions.

*In China,*

I had lengthy and detailed talks both the Premier Zhao and

Chairman Deng.

We covered a lot of ground and ~~there is a close~~

*we have similar view*

~~identity of interest~~ *view* between us on many international

issues.

/We also



We also discussed some bilateral topics, as you know, including the prospects for increased trade between our two countries.

~~Some of these projects have implications for~~ <sup>where I talked to Governor</sup> ~~him,~~

~~Hong Kong.~~ In Canton, <sup>we also</sup> ~~discussed~~ <sup>the Guangdong nuclear power</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>proposed</sup> ~~and the development~~ <sup>of off-shore oil.</sup>

In Canton, where I talked to Governor Liu, we discussed some of the same matters. We also discussed the planned nuclear power station in Guangdong province.

I hope that British firms will be able to play a large role in equipping the plant <sup>and developing the oil resources</sup> ~~and I made very~~ <sup>provision</sup>

~~I made~~ ~~clear our keen interest in contributing a great deal~~ ~~to China's modernisation.~~

~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Guangdong~~ <sup>Guangdong</sup> ~~authorities~~ <sup>authorities</sup> ~~to set up the~~ <sup>to set up the</sup> ~~telecommunications system~~ <sup>telecommunications system</sup> ~~to handle up the oil development~~ <sup>to handle up the oil development</sup>

*Peking*

~~However,~~ you will be most interested in the outcome

of my discussions in Peking on the future of

Hong Kong, *which was occupied some years*

Hong Kong also plays an important role in China's modernisation and that role, I can assure you, is ~~being~~ recognised by the Chinese leadership in Peking.

*a half hour.*

~~My discussions on Hong Kong took up most of my six hours of~~

~~talks with the Chinese leaders~~

After my meeting with Chairman Deng, we issued an

*agreed* ~~joint~~ *which I will repeat* ~~joint~~ statement ~~(and I think I should repeat it~~

~~now for you in Hong Kong.~~

/"Today



"Today the leaders of both countries held far-reaching talks in a friendly atmosphere on the future of Hong Kong. Both leaders made clear their respective positions on this subject.

They agreed to enter into talks through diplomatic channels following the visit with a common aim of maintaining the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong"

~~In my press conference in Peking I was pressed to elaborate~~  
~~but I was not prepared to do so.~~

The statement is carefully worded and the people of Hong Kong will I am sure draw confidence from it.

/Could

Could I once again draw attention to the fact  
and I  
that the Chinese leaders/identified a "common aim"  
of "maintaining the stability and prosperity of  
Hong Kong".

<sup>purpose</sup>  
In Hong Kong, my ~~aim~~ is to see what is happening <sup>since I was</sup> ~~on the~~  
~~ground~~ <sup>Last here, 5 years ago and</sup> and to pay particular attention to the ~~new~~  
~~territory's dynamic and industrious people.~~ <sup>of the</sup>  
people who live here

<sup>members of the executive &</sup>  
I have already met ~~representatives~~ <sup>legislative council representatives</sup> in the form of UMELCO  
~~and some of the business community.~~ <sup>held 20-day</sup>  
~~I have listened closely to their views and explained~~ <sup>to members of the</sup>  
~~to them the importance of the talks I held in~~  
~~Peking.~~

/I have



I have been at pains to stress that the British  
Government has a clear responsibility for the  
Hong Kong people.

As leader of that Government what matters to  
me is that we discharge our moral <sup>duty</sup> ~~responsibility~~  
to them.

I would like to add ~~just these words.~~

*that*

*part of the*

*further promote*

My objective on this ~~tour~~ *has* been to ~~promote~~  
*co-operation*  
goodwill between the Chinese and British

Governments and to generate confidence ~~between~~

~~us~~ for the talks ahead.

*here*

My aim ~~here in Hong Kong~~ has been to demonstrate

*the nature of*

Britain's commitment to ~~Hong Kong and similarly~~

*conduct on the talks which lies ahead.*

to ~~establish confidence between us for the task~~

~~on which we are embarking.~~

*cooperation, confidence,*

So goodwill, ~~commitment, confidence~~ - these *words*

*sum up*

*my visit has been about*

~~summarise what I have been about by going to discuss.~~

~~I firmly believe that returning home I shall~~

~~be able to report.~~

~~"Mission accomplished.~~ So far so good."



U/C

File No. ....

Department .....

Drafted by .....

(Block Capitals) JPW .....

Tel. Extn. ....

OUTWARD

TELEGRAM

Security Classification U/C
Precedence PRIORITY
DESKBY .....Z

FOR COMMS. DEPT. USE	Despatched (Date) ..... (Time) .....Z	POSTBY .....Z
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PREAMBLE

(Time of Origin) ..... Z (G.M.T.) (Restrictive Prefix) .....

(Security Class.) U/C (Caveat/ Privacy marking) .....

(Codeword) ..... (Deskby) ..... Z

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AND TO (precedence/post) PRIORITY: NO 10 DOWNING STREET PRESS OFFICE COI

AND SAVING TO .....

REPEATED TO (for info) IMMEDIATE: HONG KONG

SAVING TO (for info) .....

Distribution:-

[TEXT]

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT: INTERVIEWS

- Following are the texts of the Prime Minister's interviews with BBC TV, BBC Radio, and ITN on 24 September.

opies to:-



## INTERVIEW WITH JIM BIDDULPH (RBC TV)

Question: What is Britain's position as far as Hong Kong is concerned?

Answer: Britain's position at the moment is governed by the treaties. There are three treaties, one of which refers to some 92% of the territory of Hong Kong which is on lease till 1997. The other two refer to the sovereignty of perpetuity of Hong Kong Island and Kowloon which actually only 8% of the whole territory, <sup>now known</sup> as Hong Kong. Britain abides by the treaties therefore it means that the lease in 1997 expires and the sovereignty therefore returns to China.

Question: But China does not recognise those treaties. Doesn't this make the whole thing very difficult?

Answer: China has not recognised those treaties for a long time. At any rate she has said she does not recognise them. My view point is this. We keep our treaties. If anyone else does not like those treaties the way to deal with it is by discussion <sup>between</sup> the two parties concerned so that if necessary the treaties can be varied. They can be varied by agreement, but not broken. Because if one party to a treaty or a contract says I do not agree with it, I am going to break it, you can't really have a very great deal of confidence that any new treaty they make will be honoured.

Question: But China maintains that these treaties are invalid.



Answer: She has indeed said that for some time, but she has not abrogated them. And I think if you say that you don't like a treaty then if ever you are to have certainty that any other treaty you make will have the confidence of the other side you can't just abrogate one. After all, if you abrogate one, why should anyone believe you that you are serious about another. And so I think everyone realises that and therefore we enter into talks but we enter into them with the common aim, note the phrase "common aim" that the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong be maintained. And then the aim is to <sup>vary</sup> ~~bury~~ the treaties so that we achieve that stability and prosperity.

Question: Sitting watching all this are 5 million people in Hong Kong. Have they any guarantee of security in 15 years when the lease runs out?

Answer: Well, there are 15 years almost except a few days and we are trying now to reconcile the views of China and Britain. But I speak not only for Britain but for Britain's responsibility to the people of Hong Kong. And I would like to make that very clear. We have been having consultations with them and shall continue to do so. Our responsibility is to those 5 million people who have put their faith in us, who have lived under British administration for a long time and who have flourished under British administration. That prosperity and stability is to the benefit not only of the people of Hong Kong, but to China as well and to many people the world over who have invested in Hong Kong. It won't help anyone if it is upset. Indeed it could be to the discredit of many people if it is upset. So let us try to keep it and in that kind of atmosphere we are setting out on



talks with that in mind.

Question: How long do you think these talks will take?  
How long before there is a decision on just what will  
happen?

Answer: Well, we will try to speed them up as fast as we  
can. I would think they will take some months because,  
as you know, when you begin to look into the detail it  
is much more complicated than you think. And I know  
that the people of Hong Kong wish to know and we have got  
a lot of consultation to do with them too. It is their  
future we are deciding.

JE  
24/9



INTERVIEW WITH GORDON MARTIN (BBC Radio)

Question: Prime Minister this is, although you have been to China before, your first experience of high level talks as Prime Minister obviously with the Chinese leadership. How was the atmosphere in your talks in general?

Answer: The atmosphere both with Premier Zhao and Chairman Deng was a friendly atmosphere, one in which we recognise that there are differences, but we believe that the things we have in common and the aims we have in common are greater than the things upon which we differ.

Question: You obviously covered the whole spectrum of international relations. Could I ask before going on to the Hong Kong question about the Chinese relationship with the Soviet Union. What was your appreciation ~~about~~ of that?

Answer: Well a number of people have been thinking that there was a change in that relationship. I formed the very strong impression that there is no change in that relationship at all.

Question: Passing on now to Hong Kong, there has been the joint statement saying that talks are now to begin through diplomatic channels too with the common aim of maintaining stability and prosperity in the territory.  
<sup>Did</sup> Do you find, Prime Minister, a strong appreciation among the Chinese leaders that it is in everyone's interests, /including



including theirs that prosperity and stability should be maintained?

Answer: I think we all realise that. First for the people of Hong Kong. They have built the prosperity under British administration and for the greater part of the island under British sovereignty. The other part is leased. It is in China's interests to continue that prosperity. It is in our interests because we are responsible for the people of Hong Kong. And we also have to bear in mind that a lot of investors from the world over have put their money in Hong Kong and therefore put their faith in the present system and in the continuing prosperity of Hong Kong.

Question: As far as one can be certain about the future, *and* there are so many imponderables in this, do you feel that there is a good chance that an amicable agreement can be reached between Britain and China, bearing in mind the interests of the Hong Kong people?

Answer: I believe we can reconcile our differences and produce an agreement that will be acceptable to China which I can justify to Parliament, which I always have to have constantly in mind, and which will be welcomed by the Hong Kong people. We are responsible for the Hong Kong people. That is our main responsibility.

Some people think that we actually take money out of Hong Kong. *We take revenue out of Hong Kong.* We don't. We are only too relieved in a way that we don't have to put in aid. The Hong Kong people are self-supporting and we take out no revenue, so there is nothing financial in it for Britain. What matters to us more than anything else is that we discharge our moral responsibility to the people of Hong Kong.



Question: When you arrive there on Sunday ~~XXXXXX~~

Prime Minister, many people in Hong Kong will have high hopes that you bring them some message of reassurance about their future. Do you feel that the joint statement will meet that desire?

Answer: Before I went to China, a number of people from Hong Kong were saying that what matters is stability and prosperity - the future of stability and prosperity. Not surprising stability - you can't do very much without it. Prosperity is what they have built up. Those were the two things they wanted and those are the two words in the communique preceded by the phrase "It is the common aim to maintain stability and prosperity" and I hope they will find that reassuring.

Question: Finally, Prime Minister, there are as we know 15 years to go before the lease of most of Hong Kong reverts to China. Do you feel that it is a good idea to start talks now rather than <sup>to</sup> just hope for the best and do nothing for the moment?

Answer: Yes I do, because if you are living in a territory where the lease is going to get smaller and smaller and you cannot lengthen it because 1997 is approaching and if you have property in that territory or factories in that territory and you want to reequip or to reinvest you really want to know what the future is going to be beyond 1997. Now that's the problem now, that faces us now. People want to know if they are going to keep their money there or put more money there or reequip. What will the future be after



1997 and that's why I think it is advisable to enter into  
talks now, and to try to complete them as soon as  
possible.

Question: So in the meantime, to quote Deng Xiaoping,  
"They can still in your judgement, still keep their  
hearts at ease".

Answer: I hope they will be pleased that we are entering  
into talks. I hope they will be pleased with that  
phrase in the communique about the common aim. They  
will know there are differences on each side. I believe  
that those can be reconciled.



## INTERVIEW WITH GLYN MATHIAS (ITN)

*Mrs Thatcher,*

Question: How confident are you you can solve this problem of the future of Hong Kong when the lease expires?

Answer: I believe that the differences can be reconciled because I believe that we have the common aim of maintaining the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong. One can't get down to it in detail. This is the first time I have met Chairman Deng and therefore we have agreed to enter talks which will start almost immediately.

Question: But there are considerable differences at the moment?

Answer: Each side put their respective views. In many respects they are different, but the common aim of maintaining the stability and prosperity ~~will do~~ *we agree*.

Question: But doesn't it disturb you that the Chinese leaders have said so forcefully in the last couple of days that they do intend to recover sovereignty over Hong Kong?

Answer: The Chinese position has been ~~very~~ well known for ~~some time~~ *a very long time*. That is why for years now we have not reported on Hong Kong as a colony to the United Nations, because the Chinese position was known.

Question: And do you believe that under Chinese sovereignty ~~the~~ prosperity of Hong Kong can be maintained?



Answer: I believe that the prosperity of Hong Kong can be maintained if we have the aim of maintaining stability and prosperity and we translate that aim into practical proposals which will have the required result, and of course which will be acceptable to China, and the Great Britain, and above all to the people of Hong Kong.

Question: Are you able to tell the people of Hong Kong when you go there shortly that you can give them an assurance of your own confidence in the future of Hong Kong?

Answer: I can point to the statement. I can point to the fact that we have both had talks. I can point to the fact that we are both determined to try to solve it by consultation and cooperation. <sup>And</sup> I can point to something else too. It won't do anyone any good if this very flourishing Hong Kong that has been built up is destroyed. It is in China's interests to keep it, and it is in investors' interests the world over to keep it. Above all it is in the interests of the people of Hong Kong <sup>to keep it</sup>. So we all ~~all~~ agree that it is desirable that it should be kept as flourishing as it is now.



QUESTION AND ANSWER BRIEF FOR PRESS CONFERENCE

Q. Is this a joint statement?

A. It was agreed between me and Chairman Deng.

Q. In what capacity was Chairman Deng speaking?

A. He is a very senior Chinese leader.

Q. When will these talks begin? How long do you think they will take?

A. Very soon. There is no deadline for their conclusion, but we intend to get on with them, and work things out coolly and deliberately.

Q. Who will conduct these talks?

A. They will be conducted confidentially through diplomatic channels in the first instance.

Q. Will the Governor of Hong Kong take part?

A. The talks will begin through diplomatic channels. We must see how these develop, but obviously there will be a close and continuing consultation with Hong Kong.



Q. Did you expect to get further?

A. This was the first exchange at this level. It has paved the way for further talks. And I think we achieved a satisfactory outcome today.

Q. So there's a lot of hard talking left yet?

A. Yes. This is a very important and complex matter and that is why we are going into detailed talks.

Q. Will you maintain confidence in Hong Kong on the basis of the outcome of these talks?

A. The people of Hong Kong are very realistic. I am sure that they will note in the agreed statement that the common aim is to maintain the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong.

Q. What, then, is your message for the people of Hong Kong as you leave Peking?

A. I am very much looking forward to my visit to Hong Kong. This demonstrates our commitment and concern for the interests of the people there.



Q. Do the Chinese place more importance on sovereignty than continued prosperity in Hong Kong?

A. We covered many aspects of the problem, but the content of our talks must remain confidential.

Q. Did the Chinese leaders insist that China recovers sovereignty over Hong Kong? Did you insist on the continuance of British administration?

A. We discussed many aspects of this problem. But I repeat our talks were confidential.

Q. Did you reach an understanding about what will happen when the Lease of the New Territories runs out in 1997?

A. This was only a first exchange at Head of Government level. It was a useful beginning.

Q. Were the talks tough going?

A. As you will see from the agreed statement, the atmosphere was very friendly.



Q. Will the people of Hong Kong be consulted?

A. The views and interests of the people of Hong Kong will be taken fully into account.

Q. How do you propose to ascertain their views?

A. This is a continuing process. As you know, I saw a number of members of the Executive and Legislative Councils of Hong Kong before I set off from London and I shall be talking to many more people in Hong Kong.

Q. Will you hold a plebiscite to find out what the people of Hong Kong want?

A. There are already well established ways of ascertaining the views of the people of Hong Kong.

Q. Would Britain defend Hong Kong from a Chinese attack, as she did over the Falklands?

A. The two situations are completely different. Our relations with the People's Republic of China are excellent. We have declared our common aim to maintain Hong Kong's stability and prosperity.



Q. What has been the Governor's role in Peking?

A. He is a member of my delegation as one of my advisers.



Mr. Coles

PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

Suggested points to make:

1. Textile Problem: Hong Kong/EEC Negotiations

See Mr Gray's separate minute.

2. British Nationality Act 1981

(enters into force 1 January 1983)

(a) Does not affect HMG's commitment to Hong Kong.

(b) Understand Hong Kong's concern: but changes were made to the bill at Hong Kong's request, e.g.

additional category of British Dependent Territories

Citizen (BDTCs) and entitlement to registration of

BDTC as British Citizen after 5 years residence in U.K.

(c) /If pressed on wording used in passports to describe national status of a BDTC from Hong Kong?

Aware of the problem and of the uneasiness

in Hong Kong; have heard views at first hand

and will be considering this issue on my return.

~~But you must understand that there are other~~

~~British Dependent Territories Citizens besides~~

~~those who live in Hong Kong.~~

(d) /If pressed on visa requirements for Hong Kong passport holders in other countries?

We will make it clear to other countries that Hong Kong

status and relationship with the United Kingdom

are not changed by the act. We will continue to

protect Hong Kong's interests and those of BDTCs

travelling abroad.



### 3. Vietnamese Refugees

Admire Hong Kong's humanitarian action and appreciate difficulties caused <sup>by</sup> continuing inflow. UK has already done a good deal and we shall continue to take ship rescue and family reunion cases.

Will continue to encourage other resettlement countries and UNHCR in their efforts. But there are real difficulties in Britain [and I cannot hold out much hope of a new quota.]

### 4. Overseas Students Fees

Regret need to raise student's fees. Financial pressures on HMG. Hard choice but cutting back has taken place on higher education generally.

Value these links between the UK and Hong Kong. Recognise the decision created difficulties for Hong Kong students. Hong Kong loan scheme will of course help. Overseas Students Trust report being studied. Hong Kong Government's cost sharing proposals being examined. Appreciate this and understand Hong Kong's concern. Difficulty is to find extra money needed, but will take Hong Kong's interests fully into account.

### 5. Capital Punishment

Only recently, majority in House of Commons again reaffirmed their opposition to capital punishment.

6. Other subjects which may crop up and on which further oral briefing can be given if required:

Guangdong Nuclear Power Plant (safety aspects voiced by anti-nuclear lobby); Hong Kong and the Falklands; legal and illegal immigration into Hong Kong; Macau and Portugal's accession to the EEC.



Didn't stand 4-square - Quick

B.B.C

varied

Int. Law

Human right

Fundamental rights

Acpr

people of H-K

A-K

- various pronouncements

son

Prop.

Months

- Years

- months

Idea

Int

Native cult

Confidence



MS

Results of a telephone survey on 25/26 September in Hong Kong.

Mr 27/9

Summary of Survey Results

(1) Whether concerned with the 1997 issue :

	<u>Present Survey</u>	<u>Survey just before PM's Visit</u>	<u>SRH Survey in May/June 82</u>	
Very concerned/ some concern	65%	54%	Yes, concerned	49%
A little concerned	17%	30%	Not quite concerned	31%
Not at all concerned	3%	6%	Not at all	17%
No comment/ not aware	15%	10%	Beyond their concern	3%
Total	100%	100%	Total	100%

(2) Whether confident in HMG and HKG in handling the issue concerning the future of Hong Kong :

Very confident	15%
Sufficiently confident	40%
A little confident	22%
Not at all confident	1%
Don't know/not aware	22%

(3) 94% of the people are aware of PM's visit to China.

(4) Main points at the PM's Beijing Press Conference picked up by the people :

Question on sovereignty	19%
Maintaining prosperity and stability being common aim	16%
Discussion through diplomatic channels	11%



(5) Whether the points are encouraging or discouraging among those aware of press conference :

Encouraging	23%
Discouraging	17%
Neither encouraging nor discouraging	45%
Don't know	15%

(6) Whether outcome is expected :

Better than expected	35%
Same as expected	38%
Worse than expected	12%
Don't know	15%

(7) Whether agree with confidentiality :

Agree	40%
Disagree	32%
Neither agree nor disagree	10%
Don't know	17%

(8) Whether believe that the Prime Minister will be able to discharge her responsibility to the people of Hong Kong in negotiations to protect their well being :

Yes	63%
No	13%
No comment	13%
Don't understand	11%



*Original on China Policy*

cc: Mr. Jackson

PRIME MINISTER

MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS FOR JAPAN, CHINA AND HONG KONG

May I suggest that you judge the attached recommendations from Bernard against the principal aim of your visit: to strengthen confidence in Hong Kong about the future.

You have authorised Sir Percy Cradock to tell the Chinese Government that our minimum aim for your visit to China is an agreed concluding statement that the two sides have agreed to have serious talks at official level about the future of Hong Kong. We have also asked the Chinese Government to avoid any public statement that would make this aim hard to achieve.

There is a distinct risk that if there is endless press comment between now and your visit (and I am not encouraged by the attached extract from today's Economist) expectations will be so built up that even a commitment to "serious talks" will fall flat.

My own preference would be that you should give no press interviews before you leave. But if you think it impossible to avoid them I hope you would agree that Bernard, who is quite willing to do so, should make it plain to the Japanese journalists that you are prepared to talk to them about Japan but not Hong Kong and that the Chinese journalists should be similarly controlled through the submission of questions in advance.

D. J. COLES

30 July 1982