

7A

Prime Minister



This would widen the circle of those who know about your discussions by between 10 and 20 people.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 October 1982

2. But JIC assessments would be useful to you. Should we say that only those covered in the Assessment Staff (and as few of them as possible) should be informed about the discussion?

No - none
mt

A.J.C. 12/10

Dear John,

Future of Hong Kong

We shall be letting you have regular commentaries by the FCO on the state of play in the discussions with the Chinese and on the way in which we see Peking tactics tending. In addition we think that it would be useful to provide the Prime Minister with updated assessments through the JIC *~~~~~*

No

To make full use of the JIC machinery, we should need the Prime Minister's authority for the reports on her discussions with the Chinese leaders, and subsequent diplomatic exchanges, to be seen at least by those concerned in the Assessments Staff, but ideally also by other representatives on the JIC including the intelligence agencies and the MOD. This would of course be done on a very strict need-to-know basis, but would ensure that collective assessments were available. I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister agrees. If so, we shall pursue with the Cabinet Office.

I am copying this to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

~ Passage deleted and retained. Yours ever

Wayland
9 October 2012

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

J E Holmes

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

13 October 1982

Future of Hong Kong

Thank you for your letter of 8 October asking whether the Prime Minister would agree to reports on her discussions with Chinese leaders, and subsequent diplomatic exchanges, being made available to those concerned in the Assessment Staff and other representatives on the JIC including the intelligence agencies and the MOD. Mrs. Thatcher has considered this point but has decided that she does not wish the circle of those who have knowledge of her discussions on the future of Hong Kong to be widened.

I am copying this letter to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET