

THE DEANERY  
WINDSOR CASTLE

WINDSOR 65561

PRIVATE AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Robin,

28th October, 1982.

You asked me for some details concerning Mr. Eric Hotung. Mr. Hotung is the grandson of Sir Robert Hotung of Hong Kong, and he inherited his grandfather's wealth. Since he is an extremely astute businessman himself, he has greatly added to that wealth, through judicious investments in property and the stock market, as well as by involvement in a number of pioneering ventures. For instance, he has played a major part in financing the first commercial space rocket to be fired from Cape Canaveral.

Eric Hotung lives between - "Windsong", 6 Black Links Road, Hong Kong, and 179 Taconic Road, Greenwich, Connecticut, U.S.A. He is a British citizen and is married to a delightful American wife, Patricia. They are both devout and practising Roman Catholics.

Eric Hotung established 'The Eric Hotung Trust Fund' in 1965, and the wealth from this fund has been consistently and quietly used, without any ostentation or show, to do a great deal of good. Eric Hotung is passionately patriotic, and he has, among other interests, been a consistent benefactor to St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, giving £70,000. over a period of ten years. He has financed the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and has been made an Honorary Life Member in recognition. He helped to sponsor "Operation Drake" for young explorers, and has sponsored scholarships for the United World Colleges. He has helped the Gurkhas and gave £35,000. to help individual victims of the recent Falklands operation. And in America he is a major benefactor to Georgetown University, Washington.

In Hong Kong he set up and provided the funds for mortgages at very advantageous terms to young Chinese. He helped finance the Hong Kong Arts Centre, and has consistently supported the Police Welfare Fund, and many other local Hong Kong Charities. He has given over 1,000. scholarships to young Hong Kong Chinese to advance their studies.

In recognition of his manifold and varied acts of quiet generosity, five of us have suggested to the Hong Kong Government that there should be some recognition of his many public services. Apart from myself, Yehudi Menuhin, John Bimson - Chairman of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, General Sir Ian Gourlay - of United World Colleges, and General Sir John Mogg - of 'Operation Drake' for Young Explorers, signed this letter.

Eric Hotung has always maintained the closest links with mainland China. He knows all the leading figures personally, and yet he has no illusions about them! He is exceedingly well-informed about

/.....

28th October, 1982.

the internal manoeuverings that go on continually. He lived his early years in Shanghai, and many members of his family were killed during the Civil War, including one of his brothers. He speaks Mandarin, Shanghai, Cantonese and several other dialects as his first tongue.

Above all, Eric Hotung is passionately concerned to advance the interests of the Crown in any way he can. His patriotism is his driving force, and it is allied to an extremely astute business brain.

I hope these notes may be of some help. Eric will be coming to London between 29th November and 2nd December, 1982.

Yours ever,

*Richard.*

Robin Butler, Esq.,  
10 Downing Street,  
Whitehall,  
London. S.W.1.

ERIC PETER HO *CBE*

Secretary for Social Services

Born in 1927. Educated in Hong Kong. Joined the Hong Kong Civil Service in 1954. Served in a number of posts in various departments before being appointed to the present post in 1977.

*Great-nephew of Robert Ho Tung.*

*Husband of Grace Ho, Urban Councillor and Deputy Manager*

*Director of the HK and Yamato Ferry Co Ltd.*

CONFIDENTIAL



File

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

1 November 1982

PERSONAL

*My dear Michael,*

Thank you so much for your letter of 28 October and for the very helpful information about Eric Hotung. I should love to meet him when he is in London between 29 November and 2 December, and I expect to be in London during the whole of that period. Would you like to let me know in due course how I might best arrange this. I should be glad to give Mr Hotung a meal if that were convenient, but will try to fall in with whatever you suggest.

*Yours ever,*

*Robin*

The Very Reverend the Dean of Windsor