



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 January 1983

*I do NOT think
SOS should put into this
detail - or say
sovereignty - anything
Dear John, in the
7 letters is distinct content that Mr. Jenkin should
for contents - deal to the Chinese on these lines?*

Secretary of State for Industry's Visit
to the Far East: 12-23 January 1983

A.S.C. 5/1

As you know, Mr Jenkin will be visiting Peking from 14-17 January. We have been giving some consideration to whether we might use the occasion of his visit to pass on to the Chinese leaders a message of some kind on the future of Hong Kong.

The main purpose of Mr Jenkin's visit to China will be to discuss the proposed Guangdong Nuclear Power Station, following up Mr Li Peng's visit to the United Kingdom in November. His programme will therefore consist for the most part of talks with Ministers who have responsibilities in the economic and industrial field.

Mr Jenkin will, however, meet Vice Premiers Wan Li and Yao Yilin. The Chinese may expect him, as a Cabinet Minister, to raise the subject of the future of Hong Kong, particularly as they have made it clear that they see a close link between the Guangdong project and Hong Kong. Mr Pym feels that if by Mr Jenkin's visit there is still no progress in the negotiations, it would be helpful if he were to give the Chinese a prod. For this purpose he should be given orally a general outline of the present situation and progress to date.

Depending on the state of play, which would need to be discussed with the Ambassador, Mr Jenkin might make the following points:

- a. HMG is keen to begin formal talks on Hong Kong as soon as possible;
- b. it is not politically possible for us to consider sovereignty in isolation. An agreed package about future arrangements is needed before the matter can be put to Parliament with any hope of passage;
- c. we wish to reach agreement on arrangements that are acceptable to both Governments and to the people of Hong Kong. This implies the replacement of the treaties by something more in keeping with the times.

/I would

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I would be grateful to know if this proposal is acceptable to the Prime Minister.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J E Holmes'.

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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5 JAN 1988

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HU
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From the Private Secretary

6 January 1983

Secretary of State for Industry's visit to the Far East

Thank you for your letter of 5 January about the possibility of Mr. Jenkin, during his visit to Peking from 14-17 January, passing to the Chinese leaders a message on the future of Hong Kong.

The Prime Minister considers that Mr. Jenkin should not become involved in passing a message as detailed as the one you suggest under your points a, b and c; nor should he say anything on sovereignty. The one point which Mrs. Thatcher would like him to make is that we are keen that the formal talks should begin as soon as possible. Comment on the possible content of the talks should be avoided.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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