



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

14 January 1983

P E R S O N A L

Dear Mr. Kissinger,

Thank you so much for your letter of 20 December. I was very glad that you were able to come to dinner in November and I much appreciated the views you expressed then on China and Hong Kong.

If I may say so, I think your remarks to Ambassador Cai Zemin hit just the right note, particularly your point about preserving Hong Kong's stability and prosperity.

The Ambassador's remarks about being 'flexible on all other matters', were we to recognise Chinese sovereignty, are encouraging as far as they go. But I believe they still fall a long way short of a really satisfactory package. The present Chinese ideas appear to envisage an autonomous, capitalist style Hong Kong under China's control. This is the scheme of which the Chinese are currently spreading word, but it does not, it seems to me, offer any genuine guarantees whatsoever that Hong Kong's stability and prosperity, let alone the people's confidence in a free way of life, would be preserved.

Finally, I note with interest what you and the Ambassador have said about informal talks on the subject. We shall, of course, bear this in mind but I do not think that the time is yet right

/to pursue

J.P.

to pursue this. We need to see how our diplomatic contacts develop.

Thank you once again for taking the trouble to write. Do let me know when you are in London next. I am always pleased to hear from those like you who have great experience of Chinese affairs.

And it is always good to see you

Yours sincerely

Raymond White

Dr. Henry A. Kissinger,

SECRET



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 January 1983

Dear John,

Future of Hong Kong: Dr Henry Kissinger

Willie Rickett wrote to Roger Bone on 31 December 1982 about Dr Kissinger's letter of 20 December 1982 to the Prime Minister, which was forwarded by Sir John Thomson.

Sir John Thomson has told us that, after he had forwarded the letter, Dr Kissinger rang him again to say that:

- a. the reference in his letter to informal talks was intended by the Chinese Ambassador to refer to talks with non-official British;
- b. the Chinese Ambassador had hinted that an appropriate person in this category might be Lord Carrington.

Sir John Thomson has commented that Dr Kissinger does not visualise himself as an unofficial or informal link. He would of course be glad to pass on any message if required, but did not recommend it.

It is useful to have this indication of the Chinese views. Clearly the time is not ripe to consider making use of a non-official emissary, but we may need to have a number of options available later on.

/ I enclose a draft reply.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

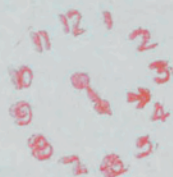
for Holmes

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

SECRET

HONG KONG: FUTURE OF P4.

=7 JAN 1983



STRICTLY PERSONAL

DSK 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:
PRIME MINISTER

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:
Dr Henry A Kissinger

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you so much for your letter of 20 December 1982. I was very glad that you were able to come to dinner in November and I much appreciated the views you expressed then on China and Hong Kong.

CAVEAT.....

If I may say so, I think your remarks to Ambassador Chai Zemin hit just the right note, particularly your point about preserving Hong Kong's stability and prosperity.

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

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STRICTLY PERSONAL

B/F



file
cc: J. Coles
Boe

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

31 December 1982

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from Henry Kissinger, which was forwarded to us by Sir John Thomson.

The Prime Minister has asked for a draft reply. I should be grateful if you could provide a suitable draft by 10 January.

W. F. S. RICKETT

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

RW,

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UNITED KINGDOM MISSION
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

845 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

21 December 1982

AJ Coles Esq
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Pre Minto

DT

29/12

Dear John,

I was dining with Henry Kissinger last night. He asked me to forward the enclosed letter to the Prime Minister. He suggested that I read it but otherwise asked that it should remain confidential. He assumed that the substance of what the Chinese Ambassador had to say would be no surprise.

Yours ever

John

J A Thomson

Draft

Please

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TOP COPY ON
USA: MEETINGS WITH
HENRY KISSINGER

HENRY A. KISSINGER

December 20, 1982

Dear Madame Prime Minister:

I am taking the liberty of writing to you to follow up on the very pleasant dinner to which you invited me some weeks ago.

Last Friday, December 17, the retiring Chinese Ambassador, Chai Zemin, called on me for a farewell call. He had with him extensive notes for a tour d'horizon. Toward the end of the conversation he asked me what I thought about Hong Kong. I told him that we were having so many troubles with them on Taiwan that I did not wish to compound them with problems that were between Britain and China. Undeterred he volunteered that the problem of Hong Kong was much easier than that of Taiwan. And he asked what I thought the basic British concerns were. I said that there might be some question whether any new constitutional arrangement would not be challenged sooner or later. Moreover preserving "the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong"--as stated in the British-Chinese communique--seemed impossible unless the current currency and legal code was maintained.

The Ambassador replied that of course China would be unbending on the issue of regaining sovereignty. Having achieved it however it would have no reason to wish to alter it. Moreover, recognition of sovereignty would enable it to be extremely flexible on all other matters, including currency and legal institutions. Talks were now going on with some Chinese from Hong Kong to enable the Chinese to judge their level of tolerance. He also indicated that they were eager to have both formal and informal talks with British officials or others having the confidence of the Prime Minister. Though he

The Right Honourable
Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1
England

clearly wanted me to pass this on I did not
tell him I would do so.

With every good wish for the New Year.

Warm personal regards,



Henry A. Kissinger