

Hong Kong

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 February 1983

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

Thank you for your letter of 11 February. When the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary called on the Prime Minister this morning there was some discussion of the way in which our current review of policy should be conducted. Mr. Pym said that a paper setting out the options would be sent to the Prime Minister shortly. The Prime Minister agreed with Mr. Pym's view that it would be sensible for Sir Edward Youde to discuss the various policy options with EXCO.

We will, as you suggest, set aside a time in the week beginning 7 March for discussion of the paper but, before firm arrangements are made to bring Sir E. Youde and Sir P. Cradock back, it may be best to await the Prime Minister's reactions to the paper.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

PRIME MINISTER

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CALL BY THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY

Mr. Pym is calling at 1115 on Monday. He really wants to touch base because he is going to be abroad for some time (in Mexico with The Queen, back for a few days, and then with The Queen in the United States).

He may want to have a word about:

a) Gibraltar

You have agreed that a date may be fixed with the Spaniards for talks but have said that you would wish to review matters as the talks progress.

b) Hong Kong

The attached letter sets out the timetable for the review. It seems sensible.

c) Multinational Force - Lebanon

A Foreign Office official, together with an MOD official, has been in Beirut looking at the arrangements for the British contingent. Mr. Pym may be able to let you have an account of their findings.

A. J. C.

11 February 1983