



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 March 1983

Future of Hong Kong

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You will remember that I sent you on 10 November 1982 a note of a meeting Alan Donald attended at the State Department and a paper which he was given by the Americans about Chinese negotiating techniques.

When the Americans had their long negotiation with Peking about arms sales to Taiwan, they found that progress had been very slow until the Chinese sent a new official as No 3 in the Chinese Embassy in Washington. This man, who had been Chou En-lai's Private Secretary and had impeccable English, proved a useful contact since it was possible at moments of tension or deadlock for the State Department to have a private word with him in a relaxed atmosphere and to disentangle some of the misunderstanding. They had been able to speak frankly with him and exchange important hints.

We have heard from Peking that a Chinese diplomat, Zheng Yaowen, is shortly taking up a new appointment as Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in London. He has hitherto been in the Western European Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs dealing in particular with the United Kingdom.

Zheng has been closely involved on the Chinese side in the Hong Kong question. He was present at the talks in Peking in January 1982 between the Lord Privy Seal and Premier Zhao. You may remember that he was also present in Peking during the session with Premier Zhao and Chairman Deng during the Prime Minister's visit last September. Zheng was extremely helpful at the end of the talk with Deng when it came to drafting the formula for the holding of diplomatic talks with the 'common aim'.

/Zheng

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Zheng speaks good English and is an intelligent man. It may not be going too far to suggest that the Chinese may be planting him in their Embassy here so that he can keep his ears open and handle the fine tuning in any reports the Embassy send back about the negotiations. He is known to several people in the Foreign Office, including Alan Donald. We shall be making normal contact with him and will report if anything of interest comes our way.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R B Bone', written in a cursive style.

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

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Hong Kong: Intre P+S



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