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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 March 1983

HONG KONG

Your Secretary of State had a brief discussion with the Prime Minister this afternoon about the Hong Kong problem. It was agreed that a paper should be prepared on the action which we should take if the Chinese attempted an armed invasion of Hong Kong at any time between now and 1997. The difficulties were fully recognised in the discussion but the Prime Minister feels that it is essential that planning of this kind is set in hand. She would be grateful to see a paper on these lines as soon as possible.

The Prime Minister also expressed interest in previous occasions when we had reinforced the Hong Kong garrison to deal with Chinese threats. She would be grateful for a brief account of those situations and, so far as these can be ascertained, the steps which we had in mind to take to counter such threats if they materialised.

ajc

Richard Motttram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.