



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 March 1983

Mr. KillettMr. Wilson  
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I have slightly revised the line to take and suggest we should have it available for Tuesday and Thursday.

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Dear John,

Future of Hong Kong: Prime Minister's Question Time

Following the visit to London by the Governor of Hong Kong and Sir Percy Cradock the Prime Minister may find it useful to have a line to use if asked in Parliament about the state of play on Hong Kong. I enclose a suggested form of words. Up to now we have confined Parliamentary statements to saying that meetings are continuing in Peking on the basis of the Prime Minister's agreement with Chinese leaders and that their content must be confidential. The draft goes further. It is obviously necessary to refer to the visit of the Governor and Ambassador and some confident conclusion would help. The reference to an agreement acceptable to Britain and China and the people of Hong Kong is similar to that used by Lord Belstead during his visit to Hong Kong and is in line with the wording of the Prime Minister's message to Zhao.

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Yours ever  
John Holmes

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

## FUTURE OF HONG KONG

The House will recall the agreement which I reached with the Chinese leaders in September last year that talks <sup>✓</sup> though diplomatic channels should be started with the common aim of maintaining Hong Kong's stability and prosperity. Meetings involving our Ambassador in Peking, Sir Percy Cradock, and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been taking place for some months and are continuing. Sir P Cradock and the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Edward Youde, visited London last week. *The current position was fully reviewed* ~~We had a very full review of the current position in Peking and I heard the Governor's assessment of the views of Hong Kong people. *We shall continue* As a result I am sure we must concentrate on direct talks with the Chinese Government in order to achieve an agreement acceptable <sup>and</sup> to Britain and China and to the people of Hong Kong.~~ *our efforts* ~~I have no doubt that such an agreement is possible.~~

Hong Kong  
Future, Pt 5

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