

PRIME MINISTER

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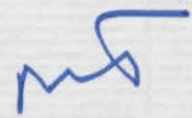
HONG KONG

Lord Carrington rang this afternoon to say that Henry Kissinger, who has recently been in Peking, had telephoned. He had had to speak rather guardedly but said that "what China was doing internally" entailed an independent Hong Kong. He had been told by the Chinese that existing legal systems could continue, provided there was no mention of The Queen, and provided that we did not make this an overt condition of transfer of sovereignty.

Kissinger said that the Chinese were "eager to settle" the Hong Kong issue.

I am afraid that the above is not very clear but I report the message as it was given to me.

A.J.C.



6 April 1983