



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I imagine that you would

London SW1A 2AH

like to see Sir S. Y. Chung?

15 April 1983

A.J.C. $\frac{15}{4}$

Yes Mr

Dear Sir,

Visit to London by Hong Kong Exco Senior Officials

I wrote to you on 14 April about the Governor's proposal that the Unofficial members of EXCO should visit London before June. Sir E Youde has now told us, quite separately, that Sir S Y Chung will be visiting London privately from 2 - 5 May. His main purpose will be to receive honorary distinctions from the engineering profession.

It would obviously be right for Sir S Y to be seen by Ministers in the FCO, probably by the Secretary of State and Lord Belstead. Depending on how things stand on Hong Kong by that stage, it might also be appropriate for him to call at No 10 as well. As you know, the Governor is keen that the Unofficials should be shown attention and given face. This applies particularly to Sir S Y.

The Governor thinks, and we agree, that any decision on a call by Sir S Y in early May should not in any way prejudice the idea of a larger scale visit of EXCO members later on.

We propose to reply to the Governor with firm proposals for calls at the FCO with the possibility of a talk with the Prime Minister in reserve. Perhaps you could let me know if this is acceptable.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

H-K : Future of : PG 5.

0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

15
APR 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

HL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 April 1983

Visit to London by Hong Kong EXCO senior officials

Thank you for your letter of 15 April. I agree that, when you reply to Sir Edward Youde about the visit by Sir S.Y. Chung to London from 2-5 May, you could keep in reserve the possibility of a talk with the Prime Minister. Mrs. Thatcher would in fact like to see Sir S.Y. Chung and we have set aside 30 minutes at 1700 hours on Wednesday 4 May - though if there is a disarmament debate on that day it is possible that we shall have to change the time.

JL

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NR

CONFIDENTIAL

NR 350
SECRET

SECRET

47

FM HONG KONG 081025Z APR 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 478 OF 3 APRIL
INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: POSSIBLE VISIT TO LONDON BY EXCO UNOFFICIALS.

1. IT WAS AGREED AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING ON 9 MARCH THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF I WERE TO TAKE A GROUP OF UNOFFICIALS TO LONDON AGAIN BEFORE TOO LONG. THE PRIME MINISTER SAW SIR S.Y. CHUNG WHEN HE VISITED LONDON PRIVATELY IN DECEMBER, AND SHE AND LORD BELSTEAD BOTH HAD MEETING WITH UMELCO DURING THEIR VISITS HERE. BUT IT IS NOW SEVEN MONTHS SINCE THE LAST VISIT BY UNOFFICIALS SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE, AND IT IS PRESENTATIONALLY IMPORTANT FOR EXCO TO BE SEEN TO MAINTAIN REGULAR CONTACT WITH MINISTERS. FROM THE SUBSTANTIVE POINT OF VIEW SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE VALUABLE WHATEVER THE CHINESE RESPONSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE: WHETHER IT IS POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE MINISTERS WILL PRESUMABLY WISH TO HAVE UNOFFICIALS' VIEWS ON THE WAY FORWARD, AND THEY WILL CERTAINLY EXPECT TO BE CONSULTED.

2. ON THIS OCCASION I WOULD PROPOSE TO INVITE ALL (ALL) EXCO UNOFFICIALS TO ACCOMPANY ME. IT WOULD BE INVIDIOUS TO CHOOSE AMONG THEM, AND IT WOULD PROBABLY BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE UNOFFICIALS THEMSELVES TO ATTEMPT TO DO SO. AT THE SAME TIME, I AM SURE THAT UMELCO AS A WHOLE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT FRANK DISCUSSION WOULD BE INHIBITED IF NON-EXCO MEMBERS WERE TO BE INVOLVED.

3. THE TIMING OF SUCH A VISIT WOULD DEPEND ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS, NOT LEAST THE PRIME MINISTER'S PROGRAMME. IT SHOULD CLEARLY TAKE PLACE AFTER THE CHINESE HAVE REPLIED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO ZHAO SO THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTERS COULD BE HELD IN THE LIGHT OF THE REPLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE VISIT SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED FOR TOO LONG, GIVEN THE RISK OF A CHINESE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR PLAN AT THE NPC, WHICH SOME REPORTS SUGGEST COULD BE HELD EARLY IN JUNE. THESE CONSIDERATIONS SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD BE THINKING IN TERMS OF AROUND THE MIDDLE OF MAY.

4. UNLESS YOU SEE OBJECTION, I PROPOSE TO TELL EXCO AT THEIR MEETING ON 13 APRIL THAT I AM IN TOUCH WITH THOSE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING UNOFFICIALS TO LONDON AT SOME POINT IN THE NEXT MONTH OR SO, AND THAT THIS IDEA HAS BEEN WELCOMED BY MINISTERS IN PRINCIPLE. I WOULD NOT NEED TO SAY ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT DATES AT THIS STAGE.

YOUDE

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

HD/HKGD
HD/FED
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/FUSD
PS
PS/MR HURD
PS/LORD BELSTEAD
PS/FUS
SIR J BULLARD
MR GIFFARD
MR DONALD

COPIES TO

SIR I SINCLAIR LEGAL ADVISER
MR BURROWS LEGAL ADVISERS
MR ROBERTS NEWS D
MR MARTIN ASSESSMENTS STAFF
CABINET OFFICE
MR FLOWER FUSD

M'COLES N° 10

SECRET