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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 April 1983

Dear Sir,

Call on Prime Minister by Sir S Y Chung,
Senior Official, 4 May 1983

Sir S Y Chung, who will be in London on a private visit to receive honorary distinctions from engineering institutions, is calling on the Prime Minister at 5 pm on 4 May. He will also see Mr Pym and Lord Belstead. I enclose a brief. The visit will provide a useful opportunity to reassure Sir S Y that HMG attaches importance to close cooperation with the Unofficials and that the hiatus in the talks with the Chinese does not mean that we are weakening in our objectives. This is a point on which the Governor has placed particular stress.

The brief refers to the Governor's suggestion that Sir S Y Chung might take part, on a selective basis, in the talks with the Chinese in Peking. We have written separately about this. The brief will need completing when the Prime Minister's views on the point are known.

The Governor has also emphasised the need for a positive public line to be taken about Sir S Y Chung's visit. He has suggested that our comment to the press on the visit should emphasise the importance which Ministers attach to their meetings with Sir S Y. He would like it added that Ministers have discussed the situation fully with him and that they assured him that HMG remain fully committed to the pursuit of the agreed objectives of holding talks with the Government of the PRC in order to maintain the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong. We agree with the Governor that this would be useful. Unless you see any objection, FCO News Department will take this line. It would be helpful if the No 10 press office did the same for the call on the Prime Minister.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH SIR S Y CHUNG, SENIOR UNOFFICIAL
MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AT 5 PM ON 4 MAY 1983 : FUTURE
OF HONG KONG

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Glad to continue our meetings to discuss the future of Hong Kong. Pleased that since our last meeting EXCO have continued to play such an important role.
2. We remain fully committed to achieving a solution that maintains stability and prosperity and is acceptable to people in Hong Kong as well as to Parliament.
3. Progress bound to be slow. The Chinese have not helped by dragging their feet. But that does not alter our aim.
4. Wanted, in my message to Zhao, to show that I am not in a position to meet the Chinese premise on sovereignty but that we are serious about starting detailed negotiations.
5. Hope that Chinese response will be favourable. But if not, shall continue to look for ways to make progress towards the agreed objectives. Look forward to keeping in close touch with you in either event, and welcome prospect of you and other Unofficials visiting London with the Governor within the next month or two.
6. [Possible participation in Peking talks. An additional point will be provided when the PM's views are known].
Before deciding on whether Unofficials should participate in talks with China, must first await reply to my message and assess its contents.

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