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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

15 June 1983

THE THREAT TO HONG KONG

The Prime Minister has seen JIC(83)(N)85.

Mrs. Thatcher has asked me to bring to the attention of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Secretary of State for Defence her view that this is an important assessment which she would wish to be kept firmly in mind by all concerned as negotiations over Hong Kong progress. She has asked that, as and when developments in the talks so require, the existing contingency plans should be revised and updated and brought to her attention.

The Prime Minister has further commented that, since the talks with the Chinese now appear to be reaching a critical stage, it will be necessary to give them particular attention in the coming weeks.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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