

S E C R E T



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

16 June 1983

Prime Minister
Agree to the form of
words? Duty clerk
16/6

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Agreed

Dear Ian,

Future of Hong Kong

The Prime Minister asked the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary yesterday for a form of words for a joint statement to be issued, assuming it is agreed that substantive talks can shortly take place. His suggested wording is as follows:

'Following the discussions between the leaders of the two countries in September 1982, and subsequent useful exchanges, it has been agreed that a second phase of the talks on the future of Hong Kong will begin in Peking on Both sides have reaffirmed the common aim of maintaining the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong and have expressed their determination to pursue the talks to a successful conclusion.'

Hong Kong may want to use a separate form of words, either for a short statement of their own or in answer to questions. We suggest:

'The British delegation will be led by the British Ambassador in Peking. The Governor of Hong Kong will also take part [as a member of the British delegation.']

These suggestions take into account the views of the Governor and the Ambassador. If the Prime Minister agrees, we shall telegraph the texts to Peking and Hong Kong. It is for agreement between the Governor and the Ambassador whether the passage in square brackets in the second text should be included or not, given the different sensitivities of their respective clients.

Yours ever
John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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17 June 1983

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

Thank you for your letter of 16 June. The Prime Minister agrees with the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's proposals for publicising the substantive talks when agreement has been obtained that they will take place.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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