



Agree that the
Australian Foreign Minister
should have a general
briefing on Hong Kong before
his visit?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

20 June 1983

MR 20/6

Yes not

Dear John,

Future of Hong Kong: Briefing the Australians

As you are aware, we have been keeping the Americans up-to-date on the future of Hong Kong

The Australians however have been given more limited briefing, although our High Commissioner in Canberra was authorised to bring Mr Hayden and the Australian Prime Minister a little more fully into the picture before Premier Zhao visited Australia in April (your letter of 30 March).

The Australians continue to have a considerable interest in Hong Kong's future because of their significant investments there, the growing importance of their relationship with China and their interest in stability in the area.

Mr Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, is passing through Hong Kong from 3 to 5 July as part of a wider Asian tour. His primary purpose is to discuss regional economic issues with local bankers and businessmen, but he also apparently wants to get a personal feel for Hong Kong's future prospects. The Governor has offered to see Mr Hayden and to give him lunch.

In the context of this visit, it would in our view be useful to bring the Australians up to date, on the political net, on how far we have got in our contacts with the Chinese, in particular the most recent moves towards opening substantive talks (we would, as before, not go into details of the Prime Minister's talks with the Chinese). A briefing in Canberra before Mr Hayden leaves would be the easiest way to do this.

/I would

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I would be grateful for confirmation that the Prime Minister shares the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's view that such a briefing is justified and appropriate.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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45. JP

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

21 June 1983

FUTURE OF HONG KONG:
BRIEFING THE AUSTRALIANS

Thank you for your letter of 10 June. The Prime Minister shares the view of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary that it will be appropriate to give the Australian Foreign Minister a general briefing on Hong Kong before his visit to the Colony on 3 to 5 July.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

JP

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Mr Coles
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GRS 40
SECRET
DEDIP

FM CANBERRA 210235Z JUN 63
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 324 OF 21 JUNE
INFO PRIORITY HONG KONG (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR) PEKING (PERSONAL
FOR AMBASSADOR)

Mr 21/6

h.a.

MY TELNO 322: VISIT BY MR HAYDEN TO HONG KONG

1. I HAVE NOW SEEN HONG KONG TELNO 316 AND PEKING TELNO 564.
IF IT IS THOUGHT PREFERABLE TO BRIEF MR HAYDEN PERSONALLY BEFORE
HE LEAVES AUSTRALIA, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO ARRANGE TO DO THIS WHILE
HE IS IN SYDNEY.

CULLIMORE

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MR GIFFARD
MR DONALD

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Mr Coles No 10. D Pt.

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