

FROM: R D CLIFT, HKD  
DATE: 8 JULY 1983

Private Secretary

cc: PS/Mr Luce  
PS/PUS  
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FUTURE OF HONG KONG: SECOND PHASE OF TALKS

A,B,C 1. I attach Peking telnos 651 and 652 and Peking telno 68  
to Hong Kong. The first telegram indicates a tough Chinese line  
on the question of Hong Kong's representation in the talks. At  
lunch with the Ambassador, Zhou Nan reacted badly to a report  
that the Governor had said he was coming to Peking to represent  
D the views of the Hong Kong people. Hong Kong telno 335  
to Peking gives the transcript of the Governor's remarks at  
the airport. What he in fact said was that as Governor of  
Hong Kong he represented the people of Hong Kong but he avoided  
further probing on the implications for the Peking talks.  
Nevertheless the Chinese have clearly decided to press home the  
point that they would not tolerate separate Hong Kong representation.  
To rub this in they have decided to refuse visas to Hong Kong  
journalists applying to go to the talks and to refuse a visa  
to the Hong Kong Director of Information (a Hong Kong Chinese) to  
go to help with the press arrangements.

2. I have discussed these telegrams with the Governor on the  
telephone. He is sending a telegram of comment. He agrees that  
it indicates a tough line but one that is consistent with the  
known Chinese position. It is clear that the Chinese are most  
unlikely to allow Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants to go to  
Peking (I would on the whole expect them to agree to British  
employees of the Hong Kong Government going). The Governor  
however is not recommending that we should instruct the

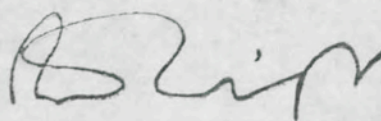
/Ambassador

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Ambassador to go back on any of these points to the Chinese. In Sir E Youde's view the most important thing for confidence is to get the talks going. We should avoid being drawn in public if the Chinese try to repeat the terms of Zhou Nan's remarks although equally we should counter the impression that the Chinese Government, rather than HMG, are qualified to speak for Hong Kong.

3. On the other telegrams including the likelihood of a two-day opening session and a ten day gap before the next round, the Governor sees no difficulties. Nor do we.



R D Clift  
Hong Kong Department

8 July 1983

The line of the Governor of Hong Kong is clearly right. We do not want to have any debate in public about Hong Kong representation at the talks. The Chinese, in the end, can physically control who travels to Peking.

AK/mald  
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S E C R E T



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 July 1983

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*Dear John*

*A.J.C. 11/7  
h.a.*

Hong Kong: Second Phase of Talks

/ We spoke about the telegrams from Peking, and I  
/ enclose a copy of a self-explanatory minute from Dick  
Clift which I shall be submitting to Sir Geoffrey Howe  
over the weekend. I also enclose, for ease of reference,  
a copy of Hong Kong telegram No 980.

*Yours ever*

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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