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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 October 1983

LETTERS FROM THE HONG KONG
AND KOWLOON TRADES UNION
COUNCIL

Thank you for your letter of 5 October. I agree that you should handle the letter of 14 September from the above Council to the Prime Minister in accordance with your normal practice.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 October 1983

Dear Ian,

GR PPs?

Letters from the Hong Kong and Kowloon Trades Union Council

Willie Rickett wrote to me on 21 September enclosing a letter the Prime Minister had received from the Hong Kong and Kowloon Trades Union Council. The Council, who have written in similar terms to Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Luce, have strong right wing (ie Taiwan) links. They are likely to give publicity to a letter from the Prime Minister herself, or even from a Private Secretary at No 10. In addition, the Council's name is somewhat misleading in that less than 20% of Hong Kong's unions are affiliated to it. In any event our general policy has been to send departmental replies to letters of this sort. We would propose to handle this similarly unless you see objection.

Yours ever
J. E. Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED

港九工團聯合總會

Hong Kong & Kowloon Trades Union Council

President: Y. K. WONG

General Secretary: W. F. TONG

14th September 1983

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher,
The Prime Minister of England,
No. 10, Downing Street,
London SW1, England.

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned officers of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Trades Union Council, take pleasure in submitting to Your Excellency the views and thoughts of the multitude of free workers from eighty-two trades and craft unions presently working in the manufacturing and services industries in the private as well as the public sectors in Hong Kong, and whom this Council represents.

On the 9th September 1983 this Council held its 36th Annual Congress of all workers' representatives at the Council's premises. Before the end of that Congress all those present were unanimous to resolve on adopting a Proclamation on the issue of the "Future of Hong Kong after 1997", as the Council's formal representation to Your Excellency.

We hereby humbly submit a copy of our Proclamation to the office of Your Excellency, and pray that it will receive Your Excellency's kind attention.

Yours very humbly,
HONG KONG AND KOWLOON TRADES UNION COUNCIL.

Wong Yiu Kam
WONG Yiu Kam
President

Wong Bor
WONG Bor, BEM
Vice-President

Tong Woon Fai
TONG Woon Fai
General Secretary

The 36th Congress of the
Hong Kong & Kowloon Trades Union Council.

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A Proclamation on "The Future of Hong Kong"

The warning on the question of "The Future of Hong Kong" after the year 1997 is already with us. This put the Hong Kong people, who used to enjoy living in this free land, into frustration, anxiety and discomfort.

The Hong Kong people used to enjoy life without political interference, harrassment and victimization. Under the law all are equal, contended and feel very proud of their standards of living and work. The majority of them confide that the communist Chinese systems will not suit the Hong Kong society and the public trends. They also hold that the philosophies of "Hongkong people to rule Hong Kong" and "Rule Hong Kong in its own way" are most in-effective.

The Hon. Mrs. Salina CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, an un-official member of the Legislative Council, pointed out that "if Hong Kong on one day flies the communist Chinese regime flag it will be the end of stability and prosperity here-at". We wonder who and what kind of a person will be that 'Hong Kong people', and with what and how will they rule Hong Kong? This will be very ambiguous and very worrying to most of us. The former Secretary For Chinese Affairs Mr. Waltheim once urged all the societies now operating in Hong Kong to unite together to form a grand confederation in order to reflect collectively the genuine wishes of the different social strata.

We accept and support these views as correct and applicable, and are sure that the general public in Hong Kong do unanimously agree.

We confide that the true reason behind our successes of today, after having already earned our renowned praise of the "Pearl Of The Orient", is that on this tiny territory of Hong Kong we have complete freedom and democracy within our social systems as well as law and order. Of course we still have our enormous work-force who, during the process of prosperity, played an important role with their labour, sweat and industriousness, have helped to build up our economically and socially strong, viable and affluent society. The Hong Kong industrial growth and development are obtained through innumerable human sacrifices and hard-working of the general public and the working people.

We of this Council are among the Hong Kong general public. When we notice that our lives, our fate, our wealth and properties, our future well-being and the livelihood of our youngsters are at stake we feel that we shall be free to speak out for ourselves. We are united here-for to reflect our views and thoughts to the authorities, and further-on to the world at large, and to struggle for what we are sure to belong to us.

On this 9th day of September 1983, when we hold our 36th Congress for all the free workers in Hong Kong, at the Labour Building at No. 11 Chang Sha Street, Kowloon, we unanimously pass a resolution to carry the following text of our Proclamation, and to submit it to Your Excellency :

1. That communist doctrines and communism anywhere in the world are very inconsistent with the normal living of human people at large. Not merely their people under their rule do not trust them but the followers of the communist regime also have no faith on them. The Chinese communists mentioned their promise to maintain the "stability and prosperity in Hongkong after 1997 and to protect investments benefits" are nothing but deadly poison under sugar-coating, and will in no way care for the well-being of the Hong Kong general public people.
2. Under the Chinese communist rule, matters like "Hongkong people to rule Hong Kong" and "Rule Hong Kong in its own way" are quite impracticable and impossible. The example of "Tibetians rule Tibet" is a good illustrative answer to the negative.
3. To maintain status-quo in Hong Kong is nothing less than protecting individual freedom, personal wealth, human rights; freedom of speech, living, abode and migration; freedom to organize; freedom on publication, and free choice on employment; in addition to all other aspects of freedom in the society.
4. The existing legal system, law and order in Hong Kong, are presently protecting the individuals and their personal freedom, and are the basis of excellent living conditions. There must be the full support on the complete independence in the administration of the law in order to maintain order and the continuence of prosperity.
5. Communism and Capitalism are two extremely contrasting and conflicting political systems. Both are unable to co-exist. If the Hong Kong system suddenly changes, the existing on-going social system will definitely collapse. Freedom for all will perish while livelihood will become extinct.
6. The Hong Kong people are aware of the vital importance of freedom and high standards of living in the Territory. Silence on this crucial issue will only invite exploitation and victimization. This is not the moment for silence, we must face facts, we must not expect anything beneficial from the communist Chinese regime to come upon us. We want to speak up, we will gather together public opinion and express ourselves. Let the world's right-thinking people be the judges over this crucial issue. Jointly, we want to protect Hong Kong's freedom, law and order, prosperity and stability.
7. We vouch that we are deadly against the Chinese communists attempting to rule Hong Kong with their system and their high-handed extremist faction ways. Collectively and unanimously we want to see Hong Kong continues with its free and democratic ways of living, to maintain its in-dependence in the administration of law and order, and freedom on enterprising. We pray that during the negotiations with the Chinese communist regime the British authorities must respect and abide by the wishes of the Hong Kong people to uphold freedom of living. We all vouch to support fully the British government in all her administrations.

The above Proclamation is humbly submitted to Your Excellencies.

HONG KONG & Kowloon
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NO ACK

21 September 1983

I enclose a copy of a letter the Prime Minister has received from the Hong Kong & Kowloon Trades Union Council.

I should be grateful for your advice on how we should respond to this letter by Wednesday 5 October.

WILLIAM RICKETT

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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