

SECRET

47A



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 October 1983

*Type letter pl.*

*HRM  
/co.*

*Dear John,*

Letter to the Prime Minister from Mr Trudeau: Hong Kong

You wrote on 21 October enclosing a copy of the Canadian High Commissioner's letter of the same date to the Prime Minister, and asking for a draft reply to the message from Mr Trudeau about Hong Kong which it conveyed.

I enclose the draft of a reply for signature by the Prime Minister.

*Yours ever,*

*Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

SECRET



DSR 11 (Revised)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:  
The Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:  
Right Honourable Pierre Elliott Trudeau PC: MP

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

I was most grateful for your message passed to me by your High Commissioner on 21 October. ~~I was deeply touched~~ <sup>And thank you</sup> ~~by~~ <sup>to</sup> your kind words about my visit to Canada. ~~For my part,~~ I greatly enjoyed my stay and found our discussions most valuable.

I was interested by ~~your account of~~ Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian's recent comments to you about Hong Kong. As you ~~surmised~~ <sup>suspect</sup>, they broadly reflect what we know already of China's plan for Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region of China. There are, however, one or two interesting differences of emphasis which ~~further~~ <sup>fully</sup> underline our belief that the Chinese have not thought through their plan.

The latest round of Sino-British talks on Hong Kong, which took place on 19/20 October, was an encouraging one. Confidence in Hong Kong was strengthened by the joint statement which described the round as useful and constructive. The next session will be held on 14 and 15

Enclosures—flag(s).....



HONG KONG: Future dr: Pt 9.

SECRET

November, again in Peking. I believe that we have made progress in persuading the Chinese to get down to more practical discussions of concrete questions. <sup>We</sup> I shall ~~of~~ <sup>keep us</sup> ~~course ensure that your Government are kept~~ in the picture as the talks proceed, in particular with a view to Premier Zhao Ziyang's visit to Canada in January.

WZ 31/10.

28 OCT 1983



SECRET

Canadian High Commission



Haut Commissariat du Canada

1 Grosvenor Square  
London W1X 0AB

October 31, 1983

Mr. John Coles  
Private Secretary  
Office of the Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London

Dear Mr. Coles,

Further to our High Commissioner's letter transmitting a message from Prime Minister Trudeau to Prime Minister Thatcher concerning the visit to Canada of Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xuegian, we now forward the original of Mr. Trudeau's letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Schram', written over a horizontal line.

John Schram  
Counsellor  
Political



*Subject* *cc Master*  
*Ops.*

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. 156A/83  
Haut Commissariat du Canada



Canadian High Commission

SECRET

1 Grosvenor Square,  
London W1X 0AB

October 21, 1983

Prime Minister

*We shall let you have*

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, SW1.

*mt a. reg. A.C. 21/11*

Dear Prime Minister,

I have been asked by Prime Minister Trudeau to pass the following message to you. The original message will follow shortly.

"Dear Margaret,

Allow me to take a moment to convey my personal congratulations for your immensely successful visit to Canada in late September, the impact of which continues to be discussed in private and public. You have captured the imagination of many Canadians. As usual, I enjoyed our discussions and hope to pursue them next month in New Delhi.

I recall particularly your concerns about Britain's ongoing negotiations with China on the future of Hong Kong. Significant Canadian interests are also at play but not, of course, to anything like the extent of your own.

Fortuitously, the Chinese Foreign Minister, State Councillor Wu Xueqian, visited Ottawa in early October. During my luncheon with Mr. Wu, he spoke at some length of the future of Hong Kong and China's approach to the negotiations (all this, I must add, without any particular encouragement from me). I do not for a moment consider Wu's statements to be a disinterested account of the negotiations. I thought nevertheless you might like to have, in confidence, a brief resumé of Wu's comments.



The substance of Wu's presentation would be all too familiar to you. The assumption of sovereignty over all of the British administered territory was, he said, fundamental to China's current position. He emphasized that it was not China's intention to disrupt either the social or economic fabric of Hong Kong by assuming sovereignty. Indeed, he forcefully reiterated the importance of assuring stability for Hong Kong in the long term.

Your negotiators are no doubt familiar with the following points which Wu emphasized would underpin the Chinese Government's policy vis-à-vis Hong Kong following 1997:

- Foreign businesses, including British businesses, would continue operating without interference;
- the judicial system would remain unchanged;
- the right of final appeal in judicial matters would be vested in Hong Kong;
- the only wording changes in existing Hong Kong laws would reflect the Peoples' Republic of China's sovereignty;
- international economic relations would remain unchanged;
- the Hong Kong dollar would remain in use; and
- general elections would allow Hong Kong residents to administer Hong Kong as a "Special administrative region".

Throughout Wu's presentation, there was no discussion of a possible role for Britain beyond 1997. He repeated that sovereignty and administration, in Chinese eyes, must go hand in hand.

In concluding his remarks, Wu stated that "we do not wish to export revolution" and left the implication that China had no immediate thought of communizing Hong Kong. He stated with equal emphasis that the Peoples' Republic of China wished to keep Hong Kong as a principal trading centre, not only in the Far East but in the world.

I certainly do not wish to insert myself in your delicate and complex talks with the Chinese. I would inform

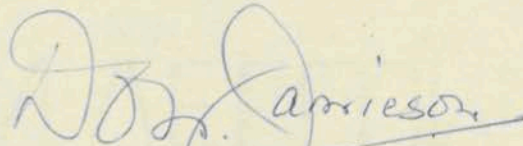


you nevertheless that Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang will undertake an official visit to Canada during the second half of January. If you see any way in which that visit could be useful, I hope you will let me know.

I am aware that the next session of your ongoing negotiations on Hong Kong will take place on October 19 and 20. The emphasis which Foreign Minister Wu placed on the financial and economic arrangements for Hong Kong suggested to me that such considerations might figure more prominently in the Chinese approach in future discussions."

Please accept, dear Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. C. Jamieson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Donald C. Jamieson  
High Commissioner

SECRET



36

Ref

Feb 1983

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

21 October 1983

HONG KONG

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the High Commissioner of Canada. This contains a long message from Mr. Trudeau which is principally devoted to a description of his talks with the Chinese Foreign Minister about Hong Kong.

I should be grateful if you would provide a draft reply to Mr. Trudeau for signature by the Prime Minister.

A&C.

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.





VK

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

21 October 1983

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 21 October in which you transmitted the text of a message from Mr. Trudeau about Hong Kong.

ASC

His Excellency Mr. Donald C. Jamieson



cc FCO

Canadian High Commission



Haut Commissariat du Canada

SECRET

1 Grosvenor Square,  
London W1X 0AB

October 21, 1983

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, SW1.

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...2



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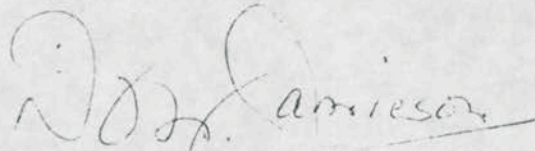


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Please accept, dear Prime Minister, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. C. Jamieson", written in dark ink.

Donald C. Jamieson  
High Commissioner



SUBJECT ee H. Q. S.  
+  
Oms



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. 7756A/83

PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE  
OTTAWA, K1A 0A2

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

October 19, 1983

Dear Margaret,

Allow me to take a moment to convey my personal congratulations for your immensely successful visit to Canada in late September, the impact of which continues to be discussed in private and public. You have captured the imagination of many Canadians. As usual, I enjoyed our discussions and hope to pursue them next month in New Delhi.

I recall particularly your concerns about Britain's ongoing negotiations with China on the future of Hong Kong. Significant Canadian interests are also at play but not, of course, to anything like the extent of your own.

Fortuitously, the Chinese Foreign Minister, State Councillor Wu Xueqian, visited Ottawa in early October. During my luncheon with Mr. Wu, he spoke at some length of the future of Hong Kong and China's approach to the negotiations (all this, I must add, without any particular encouragement from me). I do not for a moment consider Wu's statements to be a disinterested account of the negotiations. I thought nevertheless you might like to have, in confidence, a brief resumé of Wu's comments.

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
10 Downing Street  
London, England



PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

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Your negotiators are no doubt familiar with the following points which Wu emphasized would underpin the Chinese Government's policy vis-à-vis Hong Kong following 1997:

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- the judicial system would remain unchanged;
- the right of final appeal in judicial matters would be vested in Hong Kong;
- the only wording changes in existing Hong Kong laws would reflect PRC sovereignty;
- international economic relations would remain unchanged;
- the Hong Kong dollar would remain in use; and
- general elections would allow Hong Kong residents to administer Hong Kong as a "Special Administrative Region".

Throughout Wu's presentation, there was no discussion of a possible role for Britain beyond 1997. He repeated that sovereignty and administration, in Chinese eyes, must go hand in hand.



PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

In concluding his remarks, Wu stated that "we do not wish to export revolution" and left the implication that China had no immediate thought of communizing Hong Kong. He stated with equal emphasis that the People's Republic of China wished to keep Hong Kong as a principal trading centre not only in the Far East but in the world.

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I am aware that the next session of your ongoing negotiations on Hong Kong will take place on October 19 and 20. The emphasis which Foreign Minister Wu placed on the financial and economic arrangements for Hong Kong suggested to me that such considerations might figure more prominently in the Chinese approach in future discussions.

Yours sincerely, with  
*personal regards.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Qian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.