

市政局主席 張有興



Hilton Cheong-Leen, OBE, JP  
Chairman

December 29, 1983

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Prime Minister  
c/o Government House  
HONG KONG

*Dear Prime Minister,*

I take the liberty of attaching an advance copy of  
----- a statement I shall make at the Annual Conventional Debate  
of the Urban Council to be held on January 10, 1984 on the  
subject of the future of Hong Kong,

It is respectfully suggested that paragraphs 9 to  
12 be the bottomline in the negotiations leading up to any  
agreement which might be arrived at between Britain and  
China.

*Sincerely*

*Hilton Cheong-Leen*

Hilton Cheong-Leen

c.c. His Excellency the Governor )  
Sir Edward Youde, GCMG, MBE ) w/encl.

市政局 · 香港愛丁堡廣場

Urban Council Chambers, Edinburgh Place, Hong Kong.

Motion Speech by Hilton Cheong-Leen  
at the Urban Council Annual Conventional Debate  
on Tuesday, 10th January 1984

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The Statement of Aims for 1984 has been through all the Select Committees and is now to be debated for adoption.

2. I shall leave it to Members to express their views as they see fit on those parts of the Statement of Aims in which they are interested.

3. During this Annual Conventional Debate, it is also customary for Members to speak on matters outside the scope of the Council. No doubt, Members will fully avail themselves of the opportunity to do so.

4. On a general note, it has been for many years the Council's conscious aim to build up through its various subsidies and programmes a strong sense of community spirit and involvement, and a sense of belonging and of commitment

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to Hong Kong. With the setting up of the ten urban District Boards and the close cooperation which we have with the Boards, the Council is even more firmly committed to this aim. This is all the more necessary by reason of the Sino-British negotiations on the future of Hong Kong.

Sino-British Negotiations on Hong Kong's Future

5. The next round of talks on Hong Kong's future will take place in Peking on January 25-26.

6. Although I have no knowledge of the details of the discussions, I wish, however, to express my personal assessment of the feelings and aspirations of the majority of Hong Kong 5.5 million citizens.

7. First of all, British colonialism no matter how benevolent and efficient it is, should in due course be replaced by self-administration by Hong Kong people. It would appear that this view is well accepted by Britain.

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8. Secondly, China's current leadership is sincere in its desire to give Hong Kong people self-administration and to allow the present systems to continue for 50 years after 1997. The details on the draft Hong Kong mini-constitution will have to be carefully studied by Hong Kong community leaders.

9. Thirdly, Britain has a binding political obligation and responsibility to the 3 million Hong Kong people who by 1997 will still have claim to British Nationality. Britain can under no circumstances abrogate her political responsibility to these 3 million people after 1997. It is essential that the British links in Hong Kong after 1997 should be of such a nature that most of these people can be given time to be absorbed in the post-1997 Hong Kong body politic. It is hoped that Hong Kong will continue its international ties with the British Commonwealth in some form of "Associated Territory" status after 1997.

10. Fourthly, the New Territories lease will expire in 1997 and the New Territories will automatically revert to China. In order to allow time to resolve the question of these 3 million Hong Kong British Citizens, both Britain and China should come to an agreement whereby sovereignty on Hong Kong Island and the Kowloon Peninsula would finally revert back to China 30 years after 1997. Such an agreement would go a long way towards regaining the confidence of local entrepreneurs in taking a long-term investment view of Hong Kong and in bringing back to Hong Kong some of the US\$7,000 million which one international news magazine has reported to have taken flight from Hong Kong last year.

11. Fifthly, between now and 1997, Hong Kong should move towards self-administration along the Singapore model - as has been advocated by Peking leaders to various Hong Kong groups - so that by 1997, the entire territory of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories will be

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governed by Hong Kong people and the Governor or Chief Minister or whatever name is decided upon will be a Hong Kong citizen elected by Hong Kong people.

12. Sixthly, Hong Kong should by then have its own flag as the premier flag for the whole territory, with British representation in Hong Kong taking the form of a Governor-General or a High Commissioner or the equivalent, and such person could by convention be a Hong Kong born personality.

13. In any event, whatever the current state of the Sino-British negotiations on Hong Kong's future, we the people of Hong Kong must remain strong and united and be prepared to face the future with confidence. We will contribute our best efforts towards China's four modernizations programme while preserving our own unique life-style and the Hong Kong system for another 50 years after 1997.

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14.           There may be only 5.5 million people in Hong Kong, but there is but one Hong Kong in the whole world and we are all committed to preserving Hong Kong's stability and prosperity and way of life for a very long time to come..

15.           I so move.