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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 January 1984

Pl. attach

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 29 December and for sending her a copy of the statement that you made at the Urban Council's Annual Conventional Debate on 10 January. The points made in paragraphs 9-12 of your speech have been noted.

May I take this opportunity to reassure you that in their talks with the Chinese Government over Hong Kong's future the British Government are taking and will continue to take full account of the views and interests of the Hong Kong people. Our aim remain to seek a settlement which will ensure the territory's stability and prosperity, with as much continuity as possible, and which will be acceptable to the British Parliament, to China and to the Hong Kong people.

As you know, the Prime Minister has been having talks in London this week with the Governor and the Unofficial members of Hong Kong's Executive Council. In the course of these talks, Ministers have reaffirmed HMG's continuing commitment to Hong Kong and to the search for an acceptable settlement.

The Prime Minister is grateful to you for bringing your speech to her notice. I know it has attracted wide attention in the Hong Kong press.

A. J. COLES

Mr. Hilton Cheong-Leen, O.B.E.

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H-K future



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

18 January 1984

Dear John,

Type letter pl.

A.J.C. 15/1

Future of Hong Kong: Letter to the Prime Minister
from the Chairman of Hong Kong's Urban Council

As requested in your letter of 6 January I attach a draft reply for you to send to Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen, Chairman of Hong Kong's Urban Council.

Since Mr Cheong-Leen's letter was also copied to the Governor of Hong Kong we have consulted Hong Kong over the reply. They share our view that the reply should not deal with the specific points made in paragraphs 9-12 of the speech to which Mr Cheong-Leen draws particular attention, but should concentrate on general assurances that in the talks with China Her Majesty's Government is taking account of the views and interests of the Hong Kong people and seeking the best possible deal for them.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despach/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

A J COLES

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Mr Hilton Cheong-Leen OBE
 Chairman, Urban Council
 Urban Council Chambers
 Edinburgh Place
 HONG KONG

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 29 December and for sending her a copy of the statement that you made at the Urban Council's Annual Conventional Debate on 10 January. The points made in paragraphs 9-12 of your speech have been noted.

sh *Ray J*
~~I would like to~~ take this opportunity to reassure you that in ~~our~~ talks with the Chinese ~~over~~ Hong Kong's future ~~we~~ are taking and will continue to take full account of the views and interests of the Hong Kong people. Our aims remain to seek a settlement which will ensure the territory's stability and prosperity, with as much continuity as possible, and which will be acceptable to the British Parliament, to China and to the Hong Kong people.

As you know, the Prime Minister has been having talks in London this week with the Governor and the Unofficial members of Hong Kong's Executive Council. In the course of these talks, Ministers have reaffirmed HMG's continuing commitment to Hong Kong and to the search for an acceptable settlement.

The Prime Minister is grateful to you for bringing your speech to her notice. I know it has attracted wide

/attention

Enclosures—flag(s).....

attention in the Hong Kong press.

A. S. C. $\frac{45}{7}$



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 January, 1984

Hong Kong

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Hilton Cheong-Leen, Chairman of the Urban Council, Hong Kong. The speech which Mr. Cheong-Leen proposes to make on 10 January is also enclosed.

I should be grateful for a draft reply to his letter which I might sign on behalf of the Prime Minister.

BT/

AJ. COLES

P. F. Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

MR