



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister (11)

13 February 1984

Content with the
wording at X?

Dear John,

DMS
14/2

Yes no

Future of Hong Kong

Your letter of 10 February contained an amendment that the Prime Minister wished to make to paragraph 4 of the Working Paper on Constitutional Arrangements and Central Government Structures.

After Sir Geoffrey Howe had sent his minute to the Prime Minister on 7 February we received a suggestion from Peking that paragraph 4 should be expanded to include Yao Guang's statements on the appointment of the Chief Executive and other principal officials of the SAR Government. You should know for the record that, taking account of the Prime Minister's amendment, the paragraph would now read:

X | "The Government of the Hong Kong SAR would be composed of local inhabitants. The Chief Executive official of the SAR and other chief officials (ie the Chief Secretary, the Financial Secretary and the Attorney General) would be nominated on the basis of elections or consultations held locally. The persons nominated would be appointed by the Central People's Government. Other officials would be appointed by the SAR Government."

This represents a slight expansion of the paragraph to bring it more closely into line with what we now know of the Chinese position. It does not involve any change with policy implications. The Governor is intending to put the paper in this form to EXCO on 15 February.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of the other members of OD(K) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Y
Yes ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private SecretaryA J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

HONG KONG: Future

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 February 1984

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

Thank you for your letter of 13 February about the amended version of paragraph 4 of the Working Paper on Constitutional Arrangements and Central Government Structures.

We have noted the final wording.

A. J. COLES

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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