



Walter M. Sulke O.B.E. J.P.

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Telephone: 5-7957288

16th March, 1984

Mr. A.J. Coles,  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London WC1,  
ENGLAND. U.K.

Dear Mr Coles

It was kind of the Prime Minister to ask you to reply to my speech and comment on it, an action I appreciate.

My recommendation to stop talking in Beijing now and let the Chinese make their unilateral announcement is obviously based partly on fear that by force of circumstance the British Government will give away too much in the negotiations, and since these have been secret so far, it is of course very difficult to judge whether the timing of such a decision is right or wrong. However, in my view the British negotiating position would be strengthened considerably if, after a Chinese unilateral announcement, a referendum took place in Hong Kong, which as long as this were guaranteed to be secret would say a resounding "no" to living under communism however sugared that particular bitter pill may be. Inter alia, such a referendum would also mobilise world opinion. I have just returned to Hong Kong after a rapid swing through several Central European Countries and the United Kingdom, and I must say I am appalled at just how much ignorance there is about Hong Kong and its problems.

One small point: You refer to views about the 1997 problem being expressed in the Urban Council. You may not be aware that in the Urban Council we are not allowed to speak publicly about anything other than Urban Council business, which unfortunately makes a proper debate of the 1997 problem in that forum impossible. Which was also the reason why I made my speech to a Rotary Club instead of in the Urban Council.

Yours sincerely

(W.M. SULKE)

HONG KONG: Future Pt 12



Walter M. Sulke O.B.E.

1st Floor, Hongkong House, Canton Road, Hong Kong  
C/O Mr. J. J. Tolson, Washington, D.C. 20540  
Telephone 21321

14th March, 1984

Mr. J. J. Tolson,  
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
London, W1,  
England, U.K.

*Dear Mr. Tolson*

It was kind of the Prime Minister to ask you to reply to  
my speech and comment on it, an action I appreciate.  
My recommendation to stop talking in Beijing now and let  
the Chinese make their unilateral announcements as previously  
based solely on their own views of the situation. The British  
Government will give way too much in the negotiations, and  
since these have been secret so far, it is of course very  
difficult to judge whether the timing of such a decision is  
right or wrong. However, in my view the British negoti-  
ation would be strengthened considerably if, after a Chinese  
unilateral announcement, a referendum took place in Hong Kong  
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in the Urban Council. While I also have the reason why I made  
my speech to a rotary club instead of in the Urban Council.

*Walter M. Sulke*  
(W.M. SULKE)

WALTER



cc FCO  
bc PC

JP

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

26 March 1984

Thank you for your letter of 16 March.  
I have noted its contents and will bring  
them to the attention of those here concerned  
with policy towards Hong Kong.

A. J. COLES

— W.M. Sulke, Esq., OBE, JP.



file 1/1  
also

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

2 March 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 13 February enclosing a copy of your speech to the Rotary Club Hong Kong South about the future of Hong Kong. She always welcomes the views of Hong Kong people about the territory's future, and the contents of your speech have been carefully noted. I should like to comment on two major issues.

You proposed that the British Government should now withdraw from negotiations and await a unilateral Chinese statement before conducting a referendum. The British Government favour an alternative approach, namely the pursuit of discussion with the Chinese Government on the attainment of the common objective which is the continuing stability and prosperity of Hong Kong. In our view it is this active participation in the negotiation process which will best assist the interests of Hong Kong.

You suggested in your letter that the Hong Kong Government should be encouraged to hold a referendum. We have repeatedly made it clear that we are committed to the search for a settlement acceptable to the people of Hong Kong as well as to the British and Chinese governments. I can assure you that the views of Hong Kong people - expressed in such fora as the Urban Council - will continue to be fully taken into account throughout the talks. This process of consultation is a continuous one, and we attach the highest importance to it.

JOHN COLES

Mr. Walter M. Sulke, O.B.E., J.P.

2/1



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Type letter pl.

2 March 1984

ASL  
/3

Dear John,

Hong Kong: Letter from Mr Walter M Sulke

Thank you for your letter of 21 February, enclosing a copy of a letter and speech which the Prime Minister had received from Mr Walter M Sulke. I attach a draft reply for you to send to Mr Sulke.

In his speech Mr Sulke advocated the following course of action in negotiations with the Chinese on the future of Hong Kong:

- (a) stop negotiations now and wait for a Chinese unilateral announcement;
- (b) hold a referendum with three choices: the Chinese solution, the status quo or an independent Hong Kong.

Mr Sulke expressed the conviction that the third option would be the most popular and that an independent Hong Kong should be created. He ended his speech with a call for the creation of political parties in Hong Kong.

In the covering letter Mr Sulke asked the Prime Minister to consider calling a referendum in Hong Kong to assess the acceptability of any Chinese solution for the future of Hong Kong.

Mr Sulke is an appointed member of the Urban Council and serves on a wide variety of public boards and committees. We understand that his outspoken views have earned him some enemies on the Urban Council, who opposed the renewal of his appointment last year. According to the Hong Kong Government Mr Sulke's speech was prominently reported by the English-language Hong Kong press and routinely in the independent Chinese press. The only reaction in the communist press was criticism by a commentator that "an ignorant and arrogant foreigner" should propose a referendum and promote an independent Hong Kong.

/The proposed

RESTRICTED



The proposed draft reply picks out only two ideas from Mr Sulke's speech, namely the proposals for withdrawal from the negotiations and the holding of a referendum. In both areas there would be some advantage in going beyond a mere acknowledgement and placing the Government's views on record. It is worth bearing in mind that any reply sent may well become public in Hong Kong.

*Yours ever,*

*Peter Ricketts*

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

RESTRICTED



**DRAFT:** minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

**TYPE:** Draft/Final 1+

**FROM:**

Reference

A J Coles Esq

**DEPARTMENT:**

**TEL. NO:**

**SECURITY CLASSIFICATION**

**TO:**

Your Reference

Top Secret

W M Sulke Esq OBE JP  
First Floor  
Bonaventure House  
Leighton Road  
HONG KONG

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

Unclassified

Copies to:

**PRIVACY MARKING**

**SUBJECT:**

.....In Confidence

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 13 February enclosing a copy of your speech to the Rotary Club Hong Kong South about the future of Hong Kong. She always welcomes the views of Hong Kong people about the territory's future, and the contents of your speech have been carefully noted. I should like to comment on two major issues.

**CAVEAT**.....

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

You suggested in your letter that the Hong Kong Government should be encouraged to hold a referendum. We have repeatedly made it clear that we are committed to the search for a settlement acceptable to the people of Hong Kong as well as to the British and Chinese

/governments

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MJ

Walter M. SULKE

1/3

21 February 1984

Hong Kong

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Walter M. Sulke, together with the text of the speech to which he refers.

I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft reply to Mr. Sulke's letter for my signature by 1 March.

AJC

Peter Ricketts Esq  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Jan



Walter M. Sulke O.B.E. J.P.

1st Floor, Bonaventure House, Leighton Road, Hong Kong.  
G.P.O. Box 1317, Telegrams: 'WALSULKE'. Telex: 71871  
Telephone: 5-7957288

13th February, 1984

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
10 Downing Street,  
London WC1,  
ENGLAND.

Dear Mrs Thatcher

WMS

Although my home is in Hong Kong, when I stay in London I actually use a flat in North Finchley, in your constituency, so sending you the attached is not as much of a liberty as it may appear to be!

Since you are personally concerned with the Hong Kong 1997 negotiations I would be grateful if you read the attached speech which was based on a lot of grass roots input, and I believe reflects accurately the feeling of the majority of Hong Kong's population.

I realise that the Hong Kong Government feels it cannot run a Referendum without considerable pressure to give them at least some semblance of justification vis a vis Beijing. However, it is doubtful whether in the short time available a leader and a party could be found here to give voice to the aspirations of the population.

I am sure it would be useful for the negotiations in Beijing to actually be able to point to the result of a Referendum and I hope that the Hong Kong Government could be persuaded to run such a Referendum even without the justification of public pressure since surely it is only fair that Hong Kong's population should be asked what solution to the problem they prefer.

yours respectfully

WMS

(W.M. SULKE)

Speech by W M SULKE OBE JP  
to be given on Thursday, 9th February 1984  
to Rotary Club Hong Kong South at the  
Hong Kong Country Club

1997

Before I start I better give you my qualifications for holding forth about 1997 and all that. Although the colour of my skin and the shape of my nose mark me as a member of the 2% minority population, I have now lived in this part of the world for 36 years. And during 30 of those years, I worked in Chinese companies under Chinese bosses or with Chinese partners and therefore a lot of Chinese manners, customs and even superstitions have rubbed off on me. I represent part of the genius of Hong Kong (I am not claiming to be a genius myself) which mixed a cocktail of East and West and came up with a brand new type of entrepreneur. I have also paid my dues to Hong Kong by a great deal of hard community work. Moreover, although I am fairly ancient, I was not around when the British took Hong Kong, and I was also not around when the New Territories lease was signed and can therefore really not be blamed for either.

Although this is not part of my argument in parenthesis here I would like to make a plea to all concerned, but especially to Peking, not to ignore the minority I represent in it's future planning. I believe we have proved over the years that we have something to contribute to the ingredients of this pressure cooker we call Hong Kong.

After this somewhat long winded, but necessary introduction, let me get to the point: As far as China is concerned the 1997 problem is deceptively simple. Hong Kong is geographically a part of China, it's population is 98% Chinese (but mark this well: consisting of many different Chinese nationalities), it was obtained by Britain under duress and therefore it must return to China.

However, something very funny happened to Hong Kong on the way to 1997; It developed into a city state with considerable economic power and its own life style which is diametrically opposed to the political concepts obtaining either in the Peoples Republic of China or Taiwan.

And let's be honest, under any other circumstances, Hong Kong would have become independent in the 1960's and would by now have supplemented it's economic power with real political clout, presumably being a member of both the United Nations and ASEAN. The reason that this did not happen was the opposition from the Peoples Republic of China to any thought of independence and paradoxically this has, over the years, prevented even such a rudimentary exercise of democracy as a partly elected legislative council. This all pervading political influence from Peking even goes so far as to prevent the Urban Council from taking over the new towns in the New Territories which creates the administrative anomaly of two separate government departments, namely the USD and the NTSD doing the same thing. Britain's policy in regard to granting independence to all its former colonies was clearly stated and defined, and in many cases it pushed out states much smaller than Hong Kong onto international waters which in spite of dire forebodings have so far proved reasonably able to withstand the storms engendered by the Super Powers.

So let us take stock as to where we are now. The problems are as follows:

1. No one has asked Hong Kong belongers what they really want. All the governments concerned in the negotiations, and that includes the Hong Kong Government, are guessing. And the Chinese Government is certainly not interested, and are quite prepared to impose a solution which they think compatible with their own ideology.

2. No one seems to be paying too much attention to the necessity of having a credible Government in control of Hong Kong between now and 1997. The worst thing that could happen would be an agreement which could solve the 1997 problem but, at the same time, make the present Hong Kong Government into a lame duck.
3. There is a lack of trust in the present Chinese Government's ability to speak for the Chinese Government in power in 1997.
4. We must preserve, by all means, Hong Kong's economic credibility in the outside world which means inter alia that we must have our own strong freely convertible currency.
5. No one has so far made the rest of the world aware of the feelings and aspirations of the Hong Kong population.
6. The world, but especially Britain, must make contingency plans for the handling of at least three and a half million refugees should an unacceptable Chinese unilateral solution be imposed.

Because of the secrecy surrounding the talks and the lack of communication between government and governed, it is difficult to judge whether our present negotiators are really fully aware of the above six points and how they are dealing with them. I think probably the Hong Kong negotiators are very much aware of points numbers two and four. The London Government is probably aware of points one and three, and the Chinese Government may be aware of all these points, but doesn't really care as its interest is to impose a political solution already worked out by the Polit bureaux.

From what I hear, our negotiators are split into the diplomats and the others. The diplomats being pigeons (you don't eat doves but you do eat pigeons!) and the others being hawks. The diplomats main argument is that we must willy nilly trust the Chinese and we must get in our ideas before the September deadline and it is better, therefore, to negotiate quickly rather than stall so that the seminal ideas are planted in the Chinese minds before they announce their unilateral decision. And under no circumstances can we risk confrontation.

The hawks say that even if one believes in the good faith of the Chinese Government, one must act as if one cannot trust the Chinese Government. Many of us living here remember being in Shanghai, when, in 1949 various promises were made which had all been broken one year later. Many of us living here travelled in China for years through all the many campaigns and experienced the incredible political and ideological reversals engendered by these campaigns (it is in the nature of dictatorships to change suddenly and violently). The hawk's advice is to negotiate slowly, risk confrontation, and do not conclude any kind of agreement unless there are outside guarantees.

I think now is the time to stop negotiations and wait for the Chinese unilateral announcement. When this is available a referendum must be held in Hong Kong under Commonwealth or United Nations supervision with all identity card holders being eligible to vote, which should give three choices:

1. The Chinese unilateral solution
2. The status quo
3. An independent Hong Kong on the model of Singapore.

I have no doubt in my own mind that such a referendum would show a two thirds majority for an independent Hong Kong. As soon as we had the result of such a referendum we should go back to the negotiating table. Because then neither the Chinese nor the British or the Hong Kong Government or the rest of the world can have any doubt as to what Hong Kong's population really wants, which is considerably more than being just a special economic zone under a Communist Government.

Such negotiations will be extremely difficult but there are lots of historical precedents available on which to base an independent Hong Kong as still part of China. The most obvious ones are the independent cities of Central Europe, who although independent, were part of the Holy Roman Empire.

There is also of course, the Macau solution which in fact dates back 400 years.

What is necessary now is that we must show the rest of the world that there is an independent political will in Hong Kong and that the present sterile negotiations in Peking are ignoring this will.

What we need now is a political party or parties quickly before an agreement is reached in Peking which ignores the majority aspirations of Hong Kong's population.

We must lead the Hong Kong Government and not be lead by it. We must lead London in these negotiations, we must make sure that China understands the political will of Hong Kong and even more important, have the rest of the world understand it. We must mobilise world opinion and we must do it now.

Hong Kong's biggest problem is that because of the British lack of courage in the last 20 years, no political leadership has been trained in Hong Kong and we must now crystalise such leadership in a great hurry. Luckily Hong Kong has a huge pool of talent and such leadership is certainly available but it has to be motivated, hence the need for a couple of political parties now.

I have no illusions about an independent Hong Kong. There is an inherent risk in Hong Kong being run by Hong Kong people, there is a risk of very much higher taxes which could kill the free enterprise spirit of present day Hong Kong. There is a risk of demagoguery, there is also a risk of left wing subversion. But such risks must be taken if even a semblance of freedom, justice and prosperity is to remain in Hong Kong. The alternative is the loss of freedom of expression and a drastic lowering of the standard of living and a rapid deterioration of the quality of life.

As responsible citizens we must safeguard the freedom and standard of life of our descendants. If we cannot find an acceptable formula for an independent Hong Kong under the Chinese flag, then at the very least we must make sure that the guarantees to be given by the present Chinese Government are guaranteed also by an outside party, preferably the United Nations, so that if these guarantees are broken at least the world will know about it.

Freedom and democracy has never been achieved by waiting for it to percolate through from above. The pressure for democracy must come from the bottom up. It cannot be imposed from above, and anyhow no Government is willing to give away its power to the people without being exposed to considerable pressure whatever lipservice is paid to the concept of democracy. It is



up to the people to make crystal clear to our Government where we stand, what we need, and what we want.

We must now find a strong personality who can weld together all the various pressure groups and the independent spirits, give them coherence and organisation and above all, give them a strong voice.

Will the new leader of Hong Kong please stand up!!

## Dearer trips to China

CHINA tours will cost more in future.

The deputy manager of China Travel Service (HK) Ltd, Mr Ma Chi-man, said yesterday the present charges would be reviewed at a meeting soon.

He said the adjustments were necessary because of recent increases in transportation and accommodation charges in China.

Mr Ma, however, refused to speculate on the size of the planned increases, saying this would be discussed at the meeting.

He said, "many new hotels have been completed in major cities and the standard of accommodation has been raised as a result. This calls for higher charges and we will be taking this into account."

China has long been a popular destination for local travellers in view of its proximity to the colony, especially during the Lunar New Year holidays.

A top official of the Chinese National Tourism Administration, Mr Wang Yue-yi, revealed recently that two million visitors entered the country last year.

These included a great proportion from Hongkong, Macau and Taiwan.

He also said the response to package tours of Hongkong by Chinese travellers had been enthusiastic.

"So far, there have been 5,000 applicants waiting to join these tours."

There is also a strong possibility that China will offer the Hongkong tours, now restricted only to Guangdong residents, to people in other provinces.

This is due to the popularity of the tours, which were launched late last year.

At present, each person pays \$2,888 for an eight-day tour including food and accommodation while a person who chooses to stay with relatives here pays \$1,788.

# UN-run referendum is proper way — Sulke

## Zhao confident

LOCAL people should decide their future and let the world know about it, Urban Council member Mr Walter Sulke, said yesterday.

"What is necessary now is that we must show the rest of the world that there is an independent political will in Hongkong and that the present sterile negotiations in Beijing are ignoring this will," Mr Sulke said.

His speech at the Rotary Club Hongkong South was believed to be the first time that a non-Chinese Hongkonger had spoken about the 1997 future: Mr Sulke, chairman of the Zung Fu Company, has been living in Hongkong for the past 36 years.

Mr Sulke believed that given a choice of a referendum, two-thirds of the voters will back a Singapore style administration.

He later told The Standard that local people should have a say on their own future.

"I believe that people have to have a say in their future. But nobody has asked us," he said.

By ignoring the people's will, he said that China and Britain are guilty of being "dictatorial."

He said that the negotiations should be stopped and people here should wait for a unilateral Chinese announcement.

Once the Chinese plans are publicly known, Mr Sulke said, a referendum under Commonwealth or United Nations supervision should be held to allow the people to decide what they want: The unilateral solution, status quo or independence.

Mr Sulke said that political parties be formed, before an agreement is reached in

CHINESE Premier Zhao Ziyang is confident there will be a satisfactory outcome to the Sino-British talks on the future of Hongkong, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said yesterday.

Mr Hawke told reporters after meeting Mr Zhao that he felt the negotiations were purely a matter between China and Britain.

"We believe that there would be a satisfactory outcome of those discussions."

"This is a view that I put in Hongkong and that I have consistently held, and I must say that the exposition that was given by Premier Zhao totally confirmed the analysis that I have made," he added.

Mr Zhao said in Canada last month that the secret talks had made progress and he had grounds for optimism. He did not elaborate. — Reuter

Beijing "which ignores the aspirations of the majority of Hongkong's population."

"We must lead the Hongkong government and not be led by it. We must lead London in these negotiations. We must make sure that China understands the political will of Hongkong and have the rest of the world understand it," he said.

Mr Sulke added that he was under no illusions that an independent Hongkong would have risks of demagogery, subversion or higher taxes.

"But such risks must be taken if any semblance of freedom, justice and prosperity is to remain in Hongkong."

He listed the problems in the current situation:

• No one has asked Hongkong belongs what they really want. All the governments concerned in the nego-

tiations are guessing.

• No one seems to be paying too much attention to the necessity of having a credible government in control of Hongkong between now and 1997.

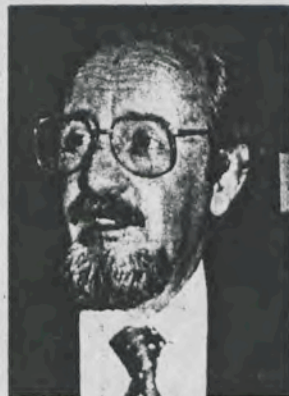
• There is a lack of trust in the present Chinese government's ability to speak for the Chinese government in power in 1997.

• We must preserve, by all means, Hongkong's credibility in the outside world which means that we must have our own strong freely convertible currency.

• No one has so far made the rest of the world aware of the feelings and aspirations of the Hongkong population.

• The world, especially Britain, must make contingency plans for the handling of at least three and a half million refugees should an unacceptable Chinese unilateral solution be imposed.

## HONGKONG 1997 FORUM



MR Sulke... political will exists.

## Addicts hurt in road accident

EIGHT people, who were on drug rehabilitation, were injured in a traffic accident on Shekkuw Island yesterday.

Marine police were called in to ferry the eight to Queen Mary Hospital, where one of them was admitted in a fair condition and six others in satisfactory condition. The eighth victim was discharged after treatment.

## Yuenlong to get its own town square

RESIDENTS of Yuenlong will soon be able to save themselves the trouble of travelling to Statue Square in Central to join in recreational activities there.

Their district board

The town itself, he said, had no area of sufficient size where people could get together for charity and fund-raising events; displays by voluntary organisations, commercial displays and for

## Just as the peace on Ne

# Colleges seek joint sports ground

By AGNES CHEN

A Government decision on whether to allocate a site in Cheung Shue Tan, New Territories, to three tertiary institutions for a joint sports ground is expected this spring.

The Dean of Student Affairs of the Hongkong Baptist College, the Rev Robert Phillips, said that representatives of the Hongkong Polytechnic, City Polytechnic and the Baptist College had made a joint request to the Government for 7½ hectares of land to build a combined sports ground.

"We have made a joint proposal through the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee to the Government to give us 7½ hectares — 5½ for the actual playing fields and two hectares for circulation areas such as a car park," Mr Phillips said after a Lions Club of Queensway lunch meeting yesterday.

The proposed sports ground in Cheung Shue Tan, which is between the Chinese University and the St Christopher's Home, will include a playing field with a grass football pitch, a 1,000-seat stadium, three practice fields with artificial turf, a full-size

running track, some catering facilities such as kiosks, and changing rooms, he said.

"We would like to have access to the waterfront so that we could use it for water sports such as canoeing, windsurfing and water-skiing."

But he added that the area would not be suitable for swimming because the Marine Department had said the tides were too strong.

The cost of development, Mr Phillips said, was expected to be about \$55 million, and they proposed to phase it over several years.

And if the ground was allocated to them, they hoped to begin construction in 1986, with the first part of the facilities ready in 1987 and completion in 1988.

Mr Phillips said the Cheung Shue Tan project was merely a proposal at this stage. Neither the Government nor the UPGC had accepted it.

"They have only asked us to look into the possibilities, and we have made all the necessary investigations.

"Now it's up to the Government to decide

whether they will allocate this space or some other space to us.

"We have given a blueprint of what we propose but based on a perfect site," he said, adding that they might need to re-design their plan depending on the site granted.

Actually there were 18 hectares available on that site, but the Government had not yet decided how to allocate it, Mr Phillips said.

"There is a strong possibility that some 11 to 12 hectares will be given over to a new town development.

"If that happens, the Kowloon-Canton Railway will be willing to build a station there so that we would have access to the KCR right by the sports ground," he said.

Mr Phillips said he understood that a number of people had applied for that piece of land, including some commercial firms interested in developing it for recreational purposes.

But he added that he hoped the site would be allocated to them as the UPGC had recommended it.

Regarding Baptist College's plans for degree programmes, Mr Phillips said the college

expected to offer degree courses in some if not all departments by the mid 80s.

He said their primary concern now was to develop facilities and academic programmes, and then the degrees would come at the appropriate time.

In his speech to the Lions Club of Queensway, Mr Phillips outlined some of the problems the college faced, including finding and keeping qualified staff.

"We have crucial areas such as communications, civil engineering, social work, and business where it is difficult to get full-time staff because of the high salaries available in the commercial or public sectors.

"We face problems in finding funds for in-service training of our staff ... and we also have a shortage of funds for research and publications, so vital to a dynamic academic community," he said.

Mr Phillips also said the college had 9,267 alumni up till November.

And of the 373 graduates last year, 96 per cent were employed or engaged in graduate studies by the following October.

## Optimism accord will be reached

Local analysts were yesterday optimistic that China and Britain can reach an agreement on Hongkong's future before September.

A second director of the local branch of the New China News Agency, Mr Li Jusheng, said on Wednesday that the talks had made progress and that he hoped an agreement could be reached by July.

Mr Li's statement was seen as once again reflecting China's intention to forge an early agreement with Britain on Hongkong's future.

But they believe such an agreement would only be a "broad framework" for the kind of administration to expect in the future.

China has said it will unilaterally announce its plans on Hongkong in September if there is no agreement by then.

The chairman of Meeting Point, Mr Lau Nai-keung, believes a solution is possible before the British parliament starts its summer break in July.

He is hopeful because of the continuation of the "healthy and constructive" approach adopted by the two governments around the negotiating table.

His view was shared by a pressure group leader, Mr Fung Kin-kee, who is also an elected Urban Councillor.

But Mr Fung predicted that an early solution would produce only a broad framework, which would later lead to more detailed agreements.

A research officer at the University of Hongkong's centre of Asian studies, Mr Steve Chin, said an early agreement has been made possible by the British Government softening its stand on the sovereignty and future administration issues.

What the two sides are working on now is a package to keep Hongkong prosperous, he said.

The SCM Post reported last month that Hongkong people could expect a formal announcement on the territory's future by the summer.

# Sulke: Halt 1997 talks until referendum is held

By MATTHEW LEUNG

Sino-British negotiations on Hongkong's future should cease at once and all parties concerned should wait for the Chinese unilateral announcement, an Urban Councillor, Mr Walter Sulke, said yesterday.

And a referendum should be held to seek local people's views on their future mode of government after 1997.

Addressing a lunch meeting of the Rotary Club of Hongkong South, Mr Sulke said: "I think now is the time to stop negotiations and wait for the Chinese unilateral announcement."

Describing the negotiations as "sterile," Mr Sulke said no one has asked Hongkong belongs to what they really want. All the parties concerned in the negotiations, including the Hongkong Government, are only guessing.

When the unilateral announcement is issued, he suggested, a referendum should be held in Hongkong under Commonwealth or United Nations supervision with all identity card-holders being eligible to vote.

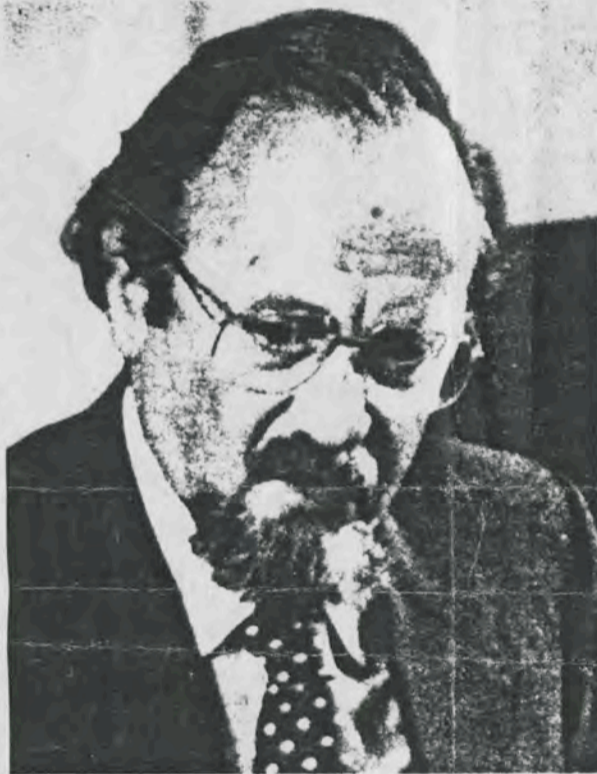
They should be asked their opinions on three forms of future administration — the Chinese unilateral solution, the status quo or an independent Hongkong modelled on the lines of Singapore, he said.

Mr Sulke said negotiations should resume as soon as the results of the referendum are available, in the knowledge that the concerned parties would know the exact views of the people of Hongkong.

Mr Sulke believes that such a referendum would show a two-thirds majority in favour of an independent Hongkong.

He said an independent Hongkong could still be a part of China.

"There are lots of historical precedents available on which to base an independent Hongkong as still part of China. The most obvious ones are the independent



Mr Sulke ... Hongkong's biggest problem is the lack of political leadership.

cities of central Europe, which, although independent, were part of the Holy Roman Empire," he said.

Mr Sulke said that an independent political will in Hongkong is being ignored in the present negotiations in Peking.

If a formula for an independent Hongkong under the Chinese flag is unlikely, then, at the very least, pledges given by the present Chinese Government should be guaranteed by an outside party, preferably the United Nations, so that if these quarantines are broken, the world will know about it.

Mr Sulke also called for the setting up of a political party or parties.

Hongkong's biggest problem, according to Mr Sulke, is the lack of political leadership.

And he blamed the British of lacking the courage in the past 20 years to establish political leadership in Hong-

pleaded with all the concerned parties, especially the Peking authorities, not to ignore the will of the people in their future planning.

"I believe we have proved over the years that we have something to contribute to the ingredients of this pressure cooker we call Hongkong," he said.

He said no one seems to be paying much attention to the necessity of having a credible government in control of Hongkong between now and 1997.

"The worst thing that could happen would be an agreement which could solve the 1997 problem but, at the same time, make the present Hongkong Government into a lame duck," he said.

He said Hongkong's economic credibility in the outside world, which means having a strong, freely convertible currency, must be preserved.

Mr Sulke said the world, especially Britain, must make contingency plans for the handling of at least 3½ million refugees should an unacceptable Chinese unilateral solution be imposed.

Speaking to the press after the lunch, Mr Sulke urged all pressure groups to get together to form a political party.

Asked why he was not in favour of a quick solution to the 1997 issue, he said the problem of Hongkong is extremely complex and it would take at least a couple of years more to map out a solution.

He was worried that British negotiators are under such pressure from China that whatever solution is finally reached will not be to the advantage of Hongkong.

## Hawke says Zhao is confident

The Chinese Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, is confident there will be a satisfactory outcome to the Sino-British talks on the future of Hongkong, his Australian counterpart, Mr Bob Hawke, said in Peking yesterday.

Mr Hawke told reporters after meeting Mr Zhao that he felt the negotiations were purely a matter between China and Britain.

"We believe that there would be a satisfactory outcome of those discussions.

"This is a view that I put in Hongkong and that I have consistently held, and I must say that the exposition that was given by Premier Zhao totally confirmed the analysis that I have made," he added.

Mr Zhao said in Canada last month that the secret talks had made progress and he had grounds for optimism. He did not elaborate.

—Reuter.



## Cabbie counts his blessings

By ALBERT CHAN

The taxi driver who calmly talked a gunman out of a possible street gunbattle on Wednesday, took time off yesterday to visit Wong Tai Sin Temple and thank the gods for their help and protection.

"It was really bad luck, that was the first day of my business in the new lunar year," said Mr Yip Kwong, a veteran driver.

Mr Yip has been driving a

## Stabbed and soaked

A man trying to fight off an attempt to rob him was stabbed and pushed into a pond yesterday.

The 38-year-old victim, surnamed Fan, was intercepted by two robbers near his home in Shun On estate, Kun Tong, about 8.30 am.

He resisted and succeeded in running away initially, but was soon caught up by the robbers who stabbed him in the stomach and pushed him into a pond in a park.

Mr Fan was rescued and taken to the United Christian Hospital where he was admitted.

His condition was described last night as fair.

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