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ccpc

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 May 1984

Hong Kong

I enclose a copy of a telex which has been sent to the Prime Minister by a number of textile associations in Hong Kong. You will see that the original was sent to Sir S.Y. Chung.

A. J. COLES

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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shown in your dialling instructions
Telegram

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15 MAY 1984/0924

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GBXX CO HXHK 307

HONGKONG 307/286 15 1611

PRIME MINISTER

10 DOWNING ST.,

LONDON

2/6/85

PRIME MINISTER

10 DOWNING ST., LONDON

THE RIGHT HONORABLE MRS. M. THATCHER

FOLLOWING TELEX HAS BEEN SEND TO THE HONG KONG UMELCO MEMBERS.

QUOTE

ATTN THE HON. SIR S. Y. CHUNG

DEAR SIR

WE WISH TO ASSURE YOU AND YOUR FELLOW UMELCO MEMBERS THAT

COL 10 10

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P2/50WD

YOU HAVE
THE FULLEST SUPPORT OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF TEXTILE ASSOCIATION
IN
YOUR MISSION TO CONVEY TO LEADING MEMBERS OF THE U.K. GOVERNMENT
THE
VERY REAL DESIRE AND EARNEST WISH OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG TO
SECURE A SETTLEMENT OF THE FUTURE OF THIS TERRITORY WHICH PROTECTS
THE

P3/50WD

ASPIRATIONS OF ALL WHO LIVE HERE. YOU HAVE PRECISELY DEFINED THE
DOUBTS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WHICH REMAIN TO BE DISPELLED, AND THE
SAFEGUARDS THAT WE SEEK IN ANY AGREEMENT NOW BEING NEGOTIATED.
WE FEEL CERTAIN THAT YOUR VISIT, COMING AS IT DOES BEFORE (REPEAT
BEFORE) THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE, IS

P4/50WD

NOT ONLY APPROPRIATE BUT TIMELY.
WE ALSO FULLY SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT RIGHT OF HONG KONG PEOPLE TO
SETTLE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL INJECT THE DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE
THAT IS NOW SO PATENTLY NECESSARY FOR THE REALISATION OF THE
OBJECTIVES PURSUED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE.
WE

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50WD

ARE SENDING A COPY OF THIS CABLE TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

REGARDS

THE HONGKONG TEXTILE N CLOTHING INDUSTRIES' JOINT CONFERENCE

(THE FEDERATION OF HONGKONG COTTON WEAVERS;

THE FEDERATION OF HONGKONG GARMENT MANUFACTURERS;

THE HONGKONG CHINESE TEXTILE MILLS ASSOCIATION;

THE HONGKONG COTTON MADE-UP GOODS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION LTD;

THE HONGKONG COTTON SPINNERS

P6/36WD

ASSOCIATION;

HONGKONG GARMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION;

HONGKONG KNITWEAR EXPORTERS N MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION LTD;

THE HONGKONG WEAVING MILLS ASSOCIATION; AND

HONGKONG WOOLLEN N SYNTHETIC KNITTING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

LTD)

UNQUOTE

REGARDS

THE HONGKONG TEXTILE N CLOTHING INDUSTRIES' JOINT CONFERENCE

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With the Compliments of
Hilton Cheong-Leen, OBE JP
Chairman
Urban Council
Hong Kong

AR 2/15
h.a.

File No.: UC/MISC/13/81 XI
Telex to: Hong Kong Government Office, London
(Attention: Sir Jack Cater)
Telex No.: 05128404

PLEASE PASS ON THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SIR
SZE-YUEN CHUNG, HEAD OF UMELCO GROUP VISITING LONDON:

MAY I, IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY, CONGRATULATE YOU
AND THE UMELCO GROUP ON THE INITIATIVE THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN
TO PRESENT YOUR STATEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG TO THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT, BRITISH MPS AND THE BRITISH PUBLIC ON
WHAT REPRESENTS THE FEELINGS AND WORRIES OF THE MAJORITY OF
THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG ON THE COURSE OF THE SINO-BRITISH
NEGOTIATIONS.

THERE MAY BE SOME WHO DISAGREE WITH THE VIEWS AS
CONTAINED IN THE STATEMENT, BUT IT IS BETTER THAT SUCH VIEWS
BE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED AT THIS TIME SO THAT THE BRITISH
GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE IN BRITAIN CAN HAVE NO EXCUSE TO
SAY THAT THE FEELINGS AND WORRIES OF THE MAJORITY OF HONG
KONG PEOPLE WERE NOT BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION AT THIS
CRUCIAL STAGE OF THE SINO-BRITISH NEGOTIATIONS ON HONG
KONG'S FUTURE.

UMELCO MEMBERS WHILE NOT ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE,
HAVE TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO SOUND OUT A WIDE AND
REPRESENTATIVE RANGE OF THE VIEWS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE FROM
ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO FORMULATE THE VIEWS AS EXPRESSED IN THE

STATEMENT. ALTHOUGH SUCH VIEWS MAY BE REGARDED BY SOME AS CONTROVERSIAL AND UNPALATABLE, THEY ARE INDISPUTABLY REPRESENTATIVE OF WHAT THE GREATER MAJORITY OF HONG KONG PEOPLE FEEL.

PERSONALLY, I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT AN AGREEMENT ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG WILL BE REACHED BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN THAT SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. BUT IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT BOTH THE BRITISH AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD REALISE THAT THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT MUST BE AS COMPREHENSIVE AS POSSIBLE AND MUST INCLUDE THE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF THE FUTURE BASIC LAW.

IT IS MUCH BETTER AT THIS STAGE TO RECOGNISE THE VERY COMPLICATED BUT NOT INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES WHICH BOTH SIDES MUST RESOLVE SO AS TO ARRIVE AT A GOOD, LASTING AND BINDING AGREEMENT, AND ABOVE ALL GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

WE MUST ALL LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH COURAGE, CONFIDENCE AND IN A POSITIVE FRAME OF MIND. HONG KONG'S FUTURE INTO THE 21ST CENTURY IS INEXTRICABLY LINKED WITH CHINA'S MODERNISATION PROGRAMME AND OPEN DOOR POLICY. IN THIS RESPECT, OUR ROLE CAN ONLY BE POSITIVE AS WELL AS PRODUCTIVE.

IN THE COMING MONTHS, AS THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT UNVEILS ITS PROGRAMME FOR DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE HONG KONG

ADMINISTRATION, WE IN HONG KONG NEED ALL THE SUPPORT POSSIBLE FROM BRITAIN AND CHINA TO MAINTAIN AND PROMOTE HONG KONG'S STABILITY, PROSPERITY AND A SELF-GENERATING PROCESS OF PERSONAL FREEDOM, DIGNITY AND A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION THAT WILL CONTINUE WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

IT IS SINCERELY HOPED THAT YOUR STATEMENT WILL BE CAREFULLY STUDIED BY ALL PARTIES CONCERNED SO THAT A GOOD AGREEMENT CAN BE ARRIVED AT BETWEEN BRITAIN AND CHINA BY THE END OF 1984.

SINCERELY,

HILTON CHEONG-LEEN

MAY 15, 1984