



Prime Minister Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Agree formula for London SW1A 2AH

invitation to comment 4 July 1984

John Clarke

at X →

C.D.P. 4/7

Yes ✓

Future of Hong Kong: Arrangements for Testing the Acceptability in Hong Kong of an Agreement with the Chinese

At the meeting of OD(K) <sup>Attached</sup> on 28 June there was general agreement on the arrangements for testing the acceptability in Hong Kong of an agreement with the Chinese, on the lines proposed in the paper submitted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. Sir Geoffrey Howe was invited to give further consideration to the form in which the invitation to comment on the acceptability of an agreement with the Chinese should be couched, the aim being to draw together the more acceptable features of the forms of invitation set out in paragraph 8(i) and 8(ii)(c) of the paper.

After further reflection, Sir Geoffrey Howe feels that this requirement can best be met by making use of the wording of the question in paragraph 8(ii)(c), while couching it as an invitation to comment. The issue would then be put to the Hong Kong people in the following terms:

X | "You are invited to comment on the overall acceptability of the arrangements negotiated between HMG and the Chinese Government for Hong Kong, in the light of the alternative described, and the general background set out in the White Paper."

Such a formula has the merits of avoiding an answer which would lend itself to statistical analysis while at the same time emphasising the need for the agreement to be considered as a whole, in the light of the alternative to be described in the White Paper (that is, no international agreement with China on future arrangements for Hong Kong).

If the Prime Minister is content, this formula will be put into the paper on the text of acceptability which is to be submitted to the Hong Kong Executive Council. The Foreign Secretary will in the meantime be giving further consideration to suitable candidates for nomination as monitors of the test of acceptability.

I am copying this to the Private Secretaries of other OD(K) members.

(R B Bone)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street



POSTAGE AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

London W.1A 2AA



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SECRET



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 July 1984

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Future of Hong Kong: Arrangements for Testing  
the Acceptability in Hong Kong of an Agreement  
with the Chinese

You wrote to me on 4 July about the form in which the invitation to comment on the acceptability of an agreement with the Chinese should be couched.

The Prime Minister is content with the form of words proposed by Sir Geoffrey Howe.

She notes that he will, in the meantime, consider suitable candidates for nomination as monitors of the test of acceptability.

I am copying this to the Private Secretaries to other OD(K) members and to Bryan Cartledge.

C D Powell

R.B. Bone, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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