



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Agree in principle to see

EXCO on the afternoon

of Sep 12<sup>th</sup> (the 11<sup>th</sup> and the morningof Sep 12<sup>th</sup> are being kept free)?

8 August 1984

Future of Hong Kong: Consultation with EXCO

We have long thought that once an agreement on Hong Kong is completed or close to completion in Peking, it would be necessary to bring the EXCO Unofficials back to London again for consultations with Ministers before we initial the texts. The purpose would be both to demonstrate that EXCO had been fully consulted, and to head off any last minute demands for unrealistic amendments to the text.

The Governor regards it as most important that EXCO should see the Prime Minister on this occasion. This presents us with a timing problem. The Prime Minister is due to be in South East Asia from 14-27 September. It is, however, unlikely that the negotiations will have reached a final stage before mid-September at the earliest. On the other hand, bringing EXCO to London after 27 September would be too late.

In view of the importance which the Governor believes the Unofficials will attach to seeing the Prime Minister, we think that we should make provisional plans to invite them to London before the Prime Minister leaves on her trip to South East Asia, even if this means that their consultations in London would have to be on a contingent basis. I suggest that, if it is possible, we should pencil in one date between 10 and 13 September. Perhaps you could let me know whether the Prime Minister would be able to see them in that period.

A final decision on the timing of EXCO's visit will inevitably have to wait until late this month or early September.

Yr ever,  
Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

David Barclay Esq  
10 Downing Street



H/K

Posten und Fernverkehr

Haus Nr. 2111



28 AUG 1984

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



SIR PERCY CRADOCK

Possible Meeting with Members of EXCO

Charles Powell has shown me a copy of Hong Kong telegram number 2243 of 4 August.

Although the Prime Minister's diary for 10-13 September is already extremely overcrowded, I am reserving from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm on 12 September for a possible meeting with members of EXCO.

I should be grateful if you could keep me in touch about the need for this meeting as things develop.

DB

6 August 1984

SECRET



SECRET

file

BM



9

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

8 August 1984

Future of Hong Kong:  
Consultation with EXCO

Thank you for your letter of earlier today.

As I have already told Sir Percy Cradock, the Prime Minister has agreed in principle - and if necessary - to see members of EXCO on the afternoon of 12 September, beginning at 1400 hours.

(David Barclay)

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRET

NIR



14-00 - 1600 m 12 GP

DB

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FM HONG KONG 040315Z AUG 84  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 2243 OF 4 AUGUST  
INFO PRIORITY PEKING

To note that members  
of Exco may need to  
come to London &  
see the PM between  
10-13 September. Please

FOLLOWING FOR CRADOCK FROM GOVERNOR

YOUR TELNO 1525

1. I CAN SEE THE DIFFICULTY OVER TIMINGS BUT I THINK THE UNOFFICIALS WILL ATTACH VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER. IF THEY ARE TO DO THIS IT MUST CLEARLY BE BEFORE SHE LEAVES FOR THE FAR EAST.
2. IF THE DIE HAS BEEN CAST THE MEETING COULD BE QUITE A SHORT ONE. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE WERE STILL POINTS OUTSTANDING WHICH WERE CRUCIAL TO ACCEPTABILITY THEN THE CONSULTATION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT HAVE TO BE ON A CONTINGENT BASIS I.E. ACCEPTABLE SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE OUTSTANDING POINTS.
3. THE ONLY OTHER SOLUTION I CAN THINK OF WOULD BE FOR THE EXCO PARTY TO PASS THROUGH WHICHEVER CAPITAL SHE WAS VISITING ON THEIR WAY BACK TO HONG KONG AFTER CONSULTATIONS IN LONDON. BUT I DO NOT IMAGINE THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD WELCOME THIS AND WE WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT WANT TO ADOPT SUCH A COURSE ANYWAY UNLESS IT WAS ALREADY CLEAR THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.
4. I AGREE THAT WE CANNOT TAKE THIS MUCH FURTHER NOW BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE WISE TO PENCIL IN A DATE BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER LEAVES AS WELL AS THE DATES YOU PROPOSED.

CDD GP  
pencil in,  
& let  
P-Cradock  
know.

YOUDE

FUTURE OF HONG KONG  
LIMITED

HD/HKD  
HD/FED  
HD/PLANNING STAFF  
HD/PUSD  
DEP HD/PUSD  
RESEARCH D (MR WALKER)  
LEGAL ADVISERS(SIR J FREELAND)  
PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
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