

603 KAM CHUNG BUILDING
54 JAFFE ROAD
WAN CHAI
HONG KONG

(129)

Mr Bulsworthy

H/K

PMJ/jc/1273

13th September, 1984.

Sir P Crockett


Dear Powell,

(113)

Thank you for your letter of 2nd August, I am most grateful to you for having taken the trouble to write, particularly since my views are of little or no consequence, one way or another.

I am afraid they remain unchanged from those expressed in my letter of 16th May 1984 and would like to make the following observations:-

1. Negotiations could not have been effectively conducted by the British Government since it was never prepared to insist that there were certain conditions which were just not negotiable, conditions which would have ensured that the people of Hong Kong continued to enjoy every one of their existing freedoms and remained as independent from China as they presently are from the UK. This would have required China to accept some sort of monitoring arrangement.
2. Everyone here - HK Chinese or English - believes that:-
 - (a) China does not even begin to understand what has made HK such a success.
 - (b) China will not allow HK to continue to enjoy its present virtual autonomy, but will gradually

Mrs Gulikland, 
Security Dept (Gr).

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These papers are filed into Hong Kong Dept., but you will want to see para 8 of Command Murray Jones' letter. It looks as though he has not been convinced by his Security Service that this was nothing in his mind allegations.

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erode many of the freedoms presently enjoyed, probably beginning with the freedoms of speech and the media, exchange control and travel. Mr. Wu Jiatun's remarks of 9th September is warning enough.

3. It is clear that Britain has thrown in the towel, with the result that China has made ever increasing demands.

Sir Geoffrey Howe has refused to answer two crucial questions:

- (i) What will the UK Government do if the HK people don't like the "joint declaration"?
- (ii) What will the UK Government do if Parliament does not accept the "joint declaration"?

He has also refused to hold a referendum. It is crystal clear why it was considered that there were "very real drawbacks" in the case of Hong Kong. With Gibraltar it was fine, because it produced the answer the Government wanted. In Hong Kong it would produce exactly the answer the Government does not want, namely that the status quo should remain.

4. From watching the television news here, Britain appears weak and ineffectual. We have seen endless shots of Evans and/or Youde walking along the streets of Peking after meetings being badgered by reporters and - having nothing to say - feebly grinning. Why cannot they avoid this humiliation by going by car?

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5. All the meetings were held in Peking - why should not some of them have been held in Hong Kong and/or London?
6. Since HK and Kowloon were ceded to Britain in perpetuity by Treaty, why cannot the Government insist on Treaties when transferring them back to China, with a "Joint Declaration" covering the reversion of the New Territories?
7. But leaving the territory itself aside, the most shameful thing is the apparent forthcoming abandonment of the people of Hong Kong, who are entitled to, and deserve, the protection of the Crown. Honour demands that, at the very least, resettlement arrangements are made available to HK British passport holders if they so require.
8. By publicly raising the question of the treaties, China was put in a position from which it had no alternative but to take the firm stand it has, and this result must have been obvious beforehand to any expert on China. It would therefore be interesting to know who advised the Prime Minister on this point, and it would not surprise me to learn that it was McLaren. (His astounding survival can only mean that he has some very powerful supporters, among whom, from my separate meetings with them, would seem to be both Howe & Youde. A chilling thought.)

On the other hand, perhaps the Prime Minister mentioned the treaties on Hong Kong T.V. deliberately, with the certain knowledge that this would effectively terminate any further British involvement in the territory.

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FROM: P. J. MURRAY-JONES

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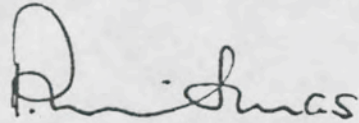
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Either way, I am sadly of the opinion that the British Government is acting dishonourably towards the people of Hong Kong. Whether this is due to political expediency, or simply to ineptitude, matters little, the shame remains the same.

I suppose a pragmatist would say that by kow-towing before China, Britain will stand to gain by way of future trade - but what a price to pay!

Yours sincerely



~~P. J. Murray Jones~~
Lieutenant Commander

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