



CLF- file Mrs
cc FW

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 June 1989

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your invitation to address the memorial service you are organising in honour of the students killed in Tiananmen Square.

The Prime Minister regrets that it will not be possible for her to attend. But I can assure you that, like the British people as a whole, she has been deeply moved by the recent tragic events in China. We have all been appalled by the brutal suppression of peaceful demonstrations and by the persecution of those demanding their democratic rights. Your memorial meeting will be a fitting way of marking the bloodshed that has taken place.

CHARLES POWELL

The Joint Committee for Memorial Meeting.

CLP



223/6
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 June 1989

COO 27/6

Dear Charles

Memorial Meeting for Chinese Students

Thank you for your letter of 14 June about the invitation that the Prime Minister has had from Mr Weng Weiye to address a memorial meeting for the Chinese students who died in Peking. The meeting is to be held tonight. We discussed over the telephone the Foreign Secretary's recommendation that Lord Glenarthur should attend it.

The principal organisers of the meeting are the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars and Hong Kong Link. As you know from correspondence resting with my letter of 22 June, the Association is the largest and most representative of the Chinese student organisations here. It is the one we have proposed that the Prime Minister should meet. Hong Kong Link is an organisation representing Hong Kong students and young professionals. There is a slight risk that some of the groups involved will seek to make use of the meeting for other political ends, but a refusal by the Government to be represented would be seen as demonstrating a lack of concern or interest, which would be particularly damaging against the background of the current wave of executions in China.

I attach a draft letter which you may care to send to Mr Weng Weiye. As we discussed on the telephone, the Department will arrange for a message on these lines to be conveyed to the Association today, making it clear that they do so on Downing Street instructions. You may however wish to follow this up with an original letter.

Yours ever
Bob Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1 +

FROM:

Reference

No. 10

TS4AAV

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

Your Reference

BUILDING:

ROOM NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

TO:

Copies to:

Mr Weng Weiye

The Association of Chinese Students
and of Hong Kong Link

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

Joint Committee for Memorial
Meeting, c/o Society for Anglo-
Chinese Understanding,
152, Camden High Street
London NW1 ONE

CAVEAT

Thank you for your invitation to address the memorial service you are organising in honour of the students killed in Tiananmen Square.

I regret that it will not be possible for me to attend. But I can assure you that, like the British people as a whole, I have been deeply moved by the recent tragic events in China. We have all been appalled by the brutal suppression of peaceful demonstrations and by the persecution of those demanding their democratic rights. Your memorial meeting will be a fitting way of marking the bloodshed that has taken place.

Enclosures flag(s)

I pray that the Chinese authorities will return to a policy of dialogue with those who aspire to greater freedom.



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bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

23 June 1989

CHINESE STUDENTS

BF //

Thank you for your letter of 22 June.
We have arranged for the group of Chinese
students to call at 1030 on Wednesday 28 June.
I should be grateful for a brief in good time
before then.

(CHARLES POWELL)

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

C D Powell Esq



With the compliments of

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Charles

*Subject to the Foreign Secretary's
agreement (he will see it
tonight) I propose to send you
this tomorrow. In view of the
short time you may wish*

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

to have it now.

SW1A 2AH

Bobson
22-6-89

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

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PS/No. 10

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

SUBJECT:

MEMORIAL MEETING FOR CHINESE STUDENTS

CAVEAT

1. Thank you for your letter of 14 June asking for advice on the invitation the Prime Minister received from Mr Weng Weiye to address the memorial meeting for the Chinese students who died in Peking during the recent suppression of the demonstrations there. The meeting is to be held on Friday 23 June.

2. The meeting coincides precisely with ^{the Australian} ~~Prime~~ ^{High Commissioner's} ~~return~~ reception, ruling out the possibility of the Prime Minister herself attending. We do, however, think that it would be desirable for HMG to be represented at the meeting. Its principal organisers are the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars, and Hong Kong Link. As you will recall from my letter of 13 June about Chinese students in the UK, the Association is the largest and most representative of the Chinese student organisations here. Hong Kong Link is an organisation representing Hong Kong students and young

Enclosures flag(s)

professionals. The other organisers are the National Union of Students and the June the Fourth China Support Group, an ad hoc group offering support to Chinese students here.

3. The meeting seems likely to be the largest manifestation of its kind in the UK, and to attract broad support among student and other bodies here. There is a slight risk that some groups will seek to make use of the meeting for other political ends, but the spread of groups involved does not suggest this. And some form of British Government representation would underline to public opinion, both here and in Hong Kong, our attitude to recent events in China. Conversely, a refusal by HMG to be represented could be presented as demonstrating a lack of concern or interest. These considerations are thrown into sharper focus by the recent wave of executions in China.

4. The Foreign Secretary and Lord Glenarthur are also being invited to the memorial meeting. The Foreign Secretary has another engagement and Lord Glenarthur is also of course involved in ^{the Australian} ~~Prime Minister~~ Hawke's reception. We are ~~however seeing if it would be possible~~ ^{has agreed} for Lord Glenarthur to attend ~~at least~~ the opening of the memorial meeting ^{and} remain for a short time.

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PRIVACY MARKING

.....

In Confidence

5. I enclose a draft reply to the invitation to the Prime Minister, cast in such a form that it could be taken as a statement of support for the aims of the memorial meeting.

DSR 11 (Revised Sept 85)

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Copies to:

Mr Weng Weiye

The Association of Chinese Students
and of Hong Kong Link

CP

SUBJECT:

PRIVACY MARKING

..... In Confidence

Joint Committee for Memorial
Meeting, c/o Society for Anglo-
Chinese Understanding,
152, Camden High Street
London NW1 ONE

CAVEAT

Re: Die Minute has asked me to

Thank you for your invitation to address the memorial service you are organising in honour of the students killed in Tiananmen Square.

Re: PM

I regret that it will not be possible for me to attend. But I can assure you that, like the British people as a whole, *we* have been deeply moved by the recent tragic events in China. We have all been appalled by the brutal suppression of peaceful demonstrations and by the persecution of those demanding their democratic rights. Your memorial meeting will be a fitting way of marking the bloodshed that has taken place.

Enclosures flag(s)

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I pray that the Chinese authorities will return to a policy of dialogue with those who aspire to greater freedom.



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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

21 June 1989

I enclose a further letter from the Chinese Students and Scholars Association. Could you quickly confirm that these are the group whom the Prime Minister should see, in which case we shall go ahead and try to arrange an appointment.

C. D. POWELL

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

P21-6

Chinese Students and Scholars Association

21st June 1989

TO:

The Right Honourable Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
10, Downing Street,
London

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

The Chinese Students and Scholars Association is the representative body for the Mainland Chinese students and scholars studying in this country. We would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the current problems facing Chinese students and scholars in this country as well as the situation in China.

We understand that you might be willing to meet with a delegation of our members within the next few days. We would most appreciate this opportunity for a delegation of perhaps five of our members to come and see you.

Should you be able to meet with us, arrangements can be made via

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RETAINED

G. Gray
15/10/2016

Chinese Students and Scholars Association

Chinese Students and Scholars Association

As representatives of the Mainland Chinese students and scholars in the United Kingdom we would call upon the British Government to take the following action:

1. To use the influence of the British Government to urge the Chinese Government not to engage in any purge of intellectuals, students or workers who participated in pro-democracy activities; and to secure the release of those detained for their participation in pro-democracy activities;
2. To express the dismay of the British Government and people at the recent actions taken by the Chinese Government with regard to the pro-democracy movement;
3. To use the best efforts of the British Government to procure the members of the British Commonwealth, the Member States of the European Communities as well as the Commission and Parliamentary Assembly of the European Communities, and the United Nations General Assembly to pass resolutions expressing their dismay at the recent actions taken by the Chinese Government with regard to the pro-democracy movement;
4. Chinese students have been very heartened by the statement on the extension of visas made by Mr. Timothy Renton last Friday. It would greatly help to reassure students and scholars in this country, in view of the current purge of intellectuals in China, if the following points could be considered:
 - (a) that the exact terms of the visa extensions be clarified;
 - (b) that a statement be made reassuring Chinese citizens that, at the expiration of any extensions granted, further extensions will be granted to any individuals who consider that they face a danger of imprisonment or persecution in China;

(c) that consideration be given to providing travel documents for Chinese citizens whose passports expire or are revoked.

5. To provide financial support for those Chinese students who are facing financial difficulty in this country, especially those who are unable to extend their sponsorship because of their involvement in pro-democracy activities;

6. To appoint a government official as liaison between the British Government and the Chinese students in this country to facilitate communication between the students and the British Government and to help in solving difficulties faced by the Chinese students.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

22 June 1989

22216

Dear Charles

Chinese Students

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*Annals
Cd. you please
fit with in new
week. My need
= top enc. 30 minutes
com*

Thank you for your letters of ~~8~~ and ~~21~~ June concerning Chinese students.

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Taking the letter of 21 June first, I can confirm that the Chinese Students and Scholars Association is the group the Prime Minister should see.

With your letter of 8 June you sent a letter to the Prime Minister from members of the Chinese Student Union. The British Council are not aware of this group, but this is not surprising as we understand that several such organisations have recently been formed. We do not think the Prime Minister should see them. I enclose a draft reply for your signature.

Yours ever

R N Peirce

(R N Peirce)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

✓ of Mr Powell, No. 10
Secretary of State

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Shy/

FROM: PS/Lord Glenarthur

DATE: 26 June 1989

CC: Private Secretary
PS/PUS
Mr Gillmore
Mr McLaren
Mr Burns, News Dept
Mr Paul, HKD
Mr Elam, CRD

Mr Millington,
FED

MEMORIAL MEETING FOR CHINESE STUDENTS

1. Following your submission of 22 June, Lord Glenarthur duly attended the memorial meeting organised by Chinese and Hong Kong students in the UK for the students who have died during the crack-down in China, which was held in Westminster Central Hall on 23 June. The event was reasonably well attended with, at a rough guess, some 500 people, British and Chinese, in the Hall.
2. The organisers extended every courtesy to Lord Glenarthur, and went out of their way to ensure that he was not put in a politically difficult position. They were clearly most grateful indeed that a Minister had come.
3. The event (which was much better organised than I had expected) started with three minutes' silence, Chinese funeral music and a mourning address by the President of the organising committee. The first speaker, rather incongruously, was Norman Willis, who gave a highly emotive speech which ended with the phrase: "The tanks cannot win".
4. Lord Glenarthur spoke next, more or less on the lines I cleared with you on Friday. His speech included the text of the letter from Number 10 Downing Street. His remarks appeared to go down well, with warm applause and some cheers from the audience. Because of time pressures, Lord Glenarthur had to leave immediately after finishing his speech. I do not know what happened later on, other than that Lord Bonham-Carter and (I think) Tony Banks MP were due to speak.

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5. There were quite a few people there from the media, including what I took to be television coverage. Lord Glenarthur gave brief interviews to Asia TV of Hong Kong, TV AM and Independent Radio News. There was quite a lot of interest in the themes of Hong Kong and sanctions against China. One of the interviewers alleged also that the Chinese Embassy had tried to intimidate students into not attending the meeting. Apart from one piece in The Independent and a brief mention in Today, I have seen no coverage to have emerged from the event.

6. Overall, this was a dignified and well-managed tribute to those who have died in China. Lord Glenarthur considers it well worth his having attended.

Robert Court
—

Robert Court
PS/Lord Glenarthur

26 June 1989

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