

Prime Minister

1. Press statement to be agreed.

This is normal after these meetings.

2. Group photograph outside the Cabinet Room.

EDP

9.00 am. tomorrow

Time 11:30 (1)  
Since total group  
will be 16 or so, I  
suggest the Cabinet Room.

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MR POWELL

4 December 1984 CDP.

HONG KONG: CALL BY UMELCO DELEGATION

1. UMELCO are in a rather niggling mood. They take the Agreement for granted and are concerned now over additional points. These are a mixture: some are lost causes (eg transmissibility for the rights of former BDTC's); some are already answered (statelessness); some are misconceived (eg alleged contradictions between the Basic Law and the Chinese Constitution); some are important points still to play for (consultation with Hong Kong people over the Basic Law, representation of Hong Kong interests in <sup>the</sup> Joint Liaison Group). \* ~~~~~ \* may specifically ask the Prime Minister to agree to take up UMELCO's points in Peking.

2. I think the Foreign Office brief is right in suggesting a rather bland response. The Foreign Secretary will have taken up some detailed questions at his earlier meeting. I suggest we should avoid specific undertakings to raise this or that issue with the Chinese. We shall certainly wish to consider all UMELCO's representations and we shall wish to pursue some of their points but we must keep our hands free on the best way of playing the game. On the most sensitive issue of all, ie consultation with Hong Kong over the Basic Law, a frontal attack on the Chinese would almost certainly be counter-productive.

3. It would be useful if the Prime Minister could stress our intention to fulfil our responsibilities to Hong Kong right up to 1997 and of not losing interest in the territory. It would also be helpful to remind the Delegation, as she did in September, of the need for a positive attitude to the Agreement. However good the text, Hong Kong people can make it or break it.

\* ~~~~~ \* Name deleted and  
closed under FOI Exemption.

Wayland, 3/7/14

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PERCY CRADOCK

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