



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Names deleted and
closed under FOI Exemption.
Wayland.

5 February 1985

CDP
5/2.

Dear Charles,

3/7/14

The Prime Minister may wish to know that the Governor of Hong Kong has informed us that one of the members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, has indicated his intention to resign shortly from both Councils.

The reasons for [redacted] decision are not entirely clear, but they probably relate more to HMG's policy on the admission of British Dependent Territories citizens from Hong Kong to this country than to the terms of the Sino-British agreement itself. [redacted] allowed himself to be included in the collective endorsement of the agreement by EXCO Unofficials, but he was the one member of LEGCO not to speak in the debate on the agreement. However he has recently taken the initiative to set up in Hong Kong a trust designed to advise those wishing to emigrate. He has not attended recent meetings of LEGCO.

[redacted] behaviour has led to public speculation in Hong Kong about his intentions. Resignation from the Councils before expiry of term of office is very unusual in Hong Kong and perhaps even unprecedented. There will certainly be speculation that he is resigning because of dissatisfaction with the agreement. We understand however that [redacted] will only refer to "personal reasons" in his letter of resignation. The Governor is seeking to ensure that news of the resignation does not break until after the remaining stages of the Hong Kong Bill have been taken in the House of Commons.

When the news breaks we propose to decline to comment, taking the line that it is for [redacted] to explain the reasons for his action. Depending on what he then says in public, it may of course be necessary to react.

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street