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 LASTEM
 bc: Sir P. Craddock

17

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 April 1985

HONG KONG AGREEMENT: JOINT LIAISON GROUP

You wrote to me on 16 April about the difficulties which have arisen with the Chinese over our intention to appoint a BDTC as a member of the British team on the Joint Liaison Group. Nigel Pantling's letter of 18 April conveyed the Home Secretary's views.

The Prime Minister has now considered this matter. She attaches the highest importance to securing the presence of * ~ * and in due course a suitable successor, on the Joint Liaison Group; and is decided that we must take whatever steps are necessary to secure this objective. If the gambit of issuing him a second passport inscribed "Nationality: British" works that would be satisfactory. But it seems unlikely that this will be enough to convince the Chinese, who will only ask what his precise national status is. In that event, the Prime Minister will want a full British citizenship passport to be issued for * ~ * * even if this does involve conferring the status of full British citizenship. It may prove necessary to do the same for his eventual successors.

I am copying this letter to Nigel Pantling (Home Office).

CHARLES POWELL

* ~ * Names deleted and
 Closed under FOI Exemption

Wayland
 3/7/14

Len Appleyard, Esq.,
 Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET

cc/cp



HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

18 April 1985

*NBIM
CDP
15/4*

Dear Charles,

HONG KONG AGREEMENT: JOINT LIAISON GROUP

-pps attached

Len Appleyard sent us a copy of his letter of 16 April to you about the problems caused for the initial meeting of the Joint Liaison Group by the Chinese attitude to British Dependent Territories citizens in Hong Kong.

We assume that the individuals concerned will possess ordinary BDTCs' passports which they can continue to use for other travel outside Hong Kong. If so, we would not object to the issue of a second passport inscribed "Nationality: British" and Home Office officials (who had not in fact received more than a preliminary approach from FCO officials) will be in touch with FCO to sort out the details. The Home Secretary would, however, be very reluctant to contemplate the issue of a full British citizen passport since he does not think that in practice, nor possibly given a recent court decision, in law, it would be possible to issue such a passport without conferring the status of full British citizenship.

I am copying this letter to Len Appleyard.

*Yours ever,
Nigel*

N A PANTLING

C D Powell, Esq

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