



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 November 1984

Dear Peter,

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER TO PEKING AND HONG KONG

Thank you for your letter of 14 November about the Prime Minister's visit to Peking and Hong Kong.

Before dealing with the specific points in it, we need to consider timings. As you will be aware from separate correspondence, the Prime Minister has agreed to visit Washington to meet President Reagan on her way back from Peking and Hong Kong. I have asked you to look urgently at the possible timings. At the least this is bound to have implications for the programme in Hong Kong, in particular the idea of holding a press conference on 22 December.

Pending a decision on that, the Prime Minister is in general content with the proposals in your letter for Peking. Given how much has to be crammed into a short time, the two speeches in Peking must both be kept short. We must also leave plenty of time for preparation of them. It would be helpful to have drafts no later than 10 December.

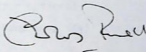
As regards Hong Kong, so much depends on the time available that it is not possible to reach a considered view on the programme there until we know what time the Prime Minister has to leave.

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In the meantime, the Prime Minister agrees in principle that the announcement of the visits to Peking and Hong Kong can be made in the week beginning 26 November. We shall need to consider separately the announcement of a visit to Washington.

This letter should be treated as for information only until we have cleared up the question of how the Washington visit fits into the rest of the programme.

Yours sincerely,



Charles Powell

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.