

CONFIDENTIAL

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Sir Antony Acland KCMG KCVO
Permanent Under-Secretary of State

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Would you be content to deal with the question of a visit by The Queen to China on these lines, during your visit to China and Hong Kong?

7 December 1984

Robin Butler Esq
10 Downing Street

*Is this suggestion
of deli- suitable to
The Queen? I should
welcome it -
mb.*

Dear Robin,

FEB

CHINA: POSSIBLE VISIT BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

10.12

Thank you for your letter of 21 November.

The Chinese invitation to The Queen is of relatively long standing, and was expressly renewed by Deng Xiaoping during Sir Geoffrey Howe's visit to Peking in July. It is almost certain that the Chinese will make some reference to the invitation during the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit. Even if they do not we have it in mind to brief the Prime Minister to make some mention herself of the invitation.

I think that there is likely to be general agreement that we should recommend that The Queen should plan for a State Visit to China in 1986. At my own recent preparatory meeting, held to consider the agenda for the Royal Visits Committee, we reached agreement that I should argue for a recommendation in this sense on the understanding that the Chinese Prime Minister would have visited the UK during 1985, and that 1985 would in any event be too early to arrange for a State Visit to China. There is however one small bureaucratic problem of timing. The Royal Visits Committee is now not due to meet until January. We shall not therefore be able to submit the recommendations of the Committee formally before the Prime Minister's departure.

In these circumstances, I suggest that we should agree between ourselves that the Prime Minister should say to the Chinese when she visits Peking that The Queen had welcomed the invitation to visit China; she was pleased to accept in principle; but it would not be possible for the visit to take place before 1986 (in practice it could not be until the second half of the year, but that need not be specified now).

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The Prime Minister may also be asked while in Hong Kong about The Queen's plans for a visit to the territory. I suggest that if the matter comes up at her meeting with EXCO she should similarly express The Queen's expectation of being able to pay a visit in association with her visit to China, but not before 1986.

At her press conference I think that the Prime Minister could confirm that an invitation has been received from the Chinese (and if necessary that the subject was discussed during the Prime Minister's own visit to Peking); say that she knows The Queen much appreciates this invitation; that The Queen's diary is full for 1985 but that she hopes to be able to accept the invitation thereafter; and add that no dates have yet been arranged. If asked, the Prime Minister could add that when a visit to China is arranged, consideration will also be given to a visit to Hong Kong.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Antony Acland', is written over a horizontal line.

Antony Acland

cc:

Sir R Armstrong GCB CVO
Cabinet Office

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file
ccPCR

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

11 December 1984

China: Possible Visit by Her Majesty
The Queen

Thank you for your letter of 7 December. I know that the Prime Minister would be content with the line recommended in your letter and, subject to Sir Robert Armstrong's views, I should be content if it were incorporated into the briefs for the China and Hong Kong visits.

I am copying this letter to Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Philip Moore.

E. E. R. BUTLER

Sir Antony Acland, KCMG, KCVO



JR
bc PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 December 1984

INVITATION TO HM THE QUEEN TO VISIT CHINA

Thank you for your letter of 14 December.

I agree that the Governor should inform EXCO in strict confidence on 18 December of the line which the Prime Minister will be taking with the Chinese Government on The Queen's visit to China.

(C.D. POWELL)

Len Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 December, 1984

Dear Robin,

Prime Minister's Visit to China: Invitation to HM The Queen

In his letter to you of 7 December Antony Acland sought agreement to the line to be taken with the Chinese about the possibility of The Queen visiting China, the line to be taken by the Prime Minister with EXCO in Hong Kong on the same subject, and the line to be taken at the press conference. You agreed in your letter of 11 December.

The Governor of Hong Kong has now asked for authority to tell the Executive Council in Hong Kong in advance the line which is going to be taken about the possibility of visits to China and Hong Kong. I enclose a copy of his telegram. We think he is right about this: apart from anything else the Prime Minister might need to use the line with the press when she sees British correspondents in Peking, before she even meets EXCO. This could cause offence to the Executive Council.

If you agree, we would propose to instruct the Governor as in the attached draft telegram, which would need to be despatched from here on Monday 17 December.

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RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

TEMPORARILY RETAINED. S Gray 22/12/84

Yours ever,

Le Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

Robin Butler Esq
10 Downing Street

ADVANCE COPY

IMMEDIATE

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HY HKD.

(Xi)

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FM HONG KONG 130745Z DEC 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 3776 OF 13 DECEMBER

FOLLOWING FOR PS/PUS AND GALSWORDY, HONG KONG DEPARTMENT
FROM GOVERNOR.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO CHINA: INVITATION TO HER MAJESTY THE
QUEEN.

1. I RAISED WHEN I WAS IN LONDON THE NEED TO KEEP THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF ANYTHING WHICH WILL BE SAID TO
THE CHINESE OR PUBLICLY DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO
CHINA ABOUT THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE INVITATION TO HER MAJESTY THE
QUEEN, PARTICULARLY SINCE A VISIT TO HONG KONG WILL PRESUMABLY
BE INVOLVED.

2. THIS SHOULD BE DONE NO LATER THAN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
ON TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER AT WHICH TIME THE COUNCIL WILL NEED TO BE
TOLD:

- (A) WHAT RESPONSE WILL BE GIVEN TO THE INVITATION;
- (B) THE PLANS FOR A PARALLEL VISIT TO HONG KONG; AND
- (C) WHAT WILL BE SAID PUBLICLY ABOUT VISITS TO BOTH PLACES.

YOUDE

NNNN

OUT TELEGRAM

	Classification and Caveats CONFIDENTIAL	Precedence/Deskby IMMEDIATE 182330Z
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GRS
CLASS
CAVEATS
DESKBY
FM FCO
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TEL NO

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 CONFIDENTIAL
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5 182330Z
6 FM FCO 131815Z DECEMBER 84
7 TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 **PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO CHINA: INVITATION TO HER MAJESTY**
10 **THE QUEEN: YOUR TEL NO 3776**
11 1. You may tell the Executive Council in strict confidence on
12 18 December that the Prime Minister is likely to tell the Chinese
13 that while the Queen has welcomed the invitation to visit China,
14 it would not be possible for the visit to take place before 1986,
15 and in practice not until the second half of the year. You
16 should say that the Queen expects to be able to pay a visit to
17 Hong Kong in association with Her visit to China.
18 2. You should also say that if the Prime Minister needs to
19 speak to the press about this, she will confirm that an
20 invitation has been received from the Chinese, and if necessary
21 that the subject was discussed during her visit to Peking. She
22 would say that she knows that the Queen much appreciates this
23 invitation, that the Queen's diary is full for 1985, but that she
24 hopes to be able to accept the invitation thereafter; and add
25 that no dates have yet been arranged. If asked, she would add

NNNN ends telegram		BLANK	Catchword that
File number	Dept HKD	Distribution Limited	
Drafted by (Block capitals) A C GALSWORTHY		PS/PUS Dr Wilson HD/HKD	
Telephone number 233 3184		HD/FED 42/PROTOCOL DEPT	
Authorised for despatch			
Comcen reference	Time of despatch		

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

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 3 given to a visit to Hong Kong.
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Foreign Policy: PMs visit to China etc

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 December 1984

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Visit to China, Hong Kong and Washington

In advance of the Prime Minister's briefing meeting on 12 December I enclose:

- (i) the steering brief for China;
- (ii) points to make at the formal talks with Premier Zhao Ziyang;
- (iii) points to make at the call on Chairman Deng Xiaoping;
- (iv) points to make at the call on General Secretary Hu Yaobang;
- (v) the steering brief for Hong Kong;
- (vi) the steering brief for Washington

The points in the briefing about a visit to China by HM The Queen are subject to the Prime Minister's agreement with the line proposed by Sir Antony Acland (after consulting the Palace) in his letter of 7 December to Robin Butler.

We shall let you have the full briefing in the course of Thursday, 13 December.

I am copying this letter with a full set of enclosures to Mr Wicklen (Mr Channon's office, DTI); with the Far East briefs only to Miss Killen (Mr Buchanan Smith's office, Energy); and with the Washington brief only to David Peretz (HM Treasury) and Richard Mottram (MOD).

P F Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

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70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

Secretary of the Cabinet and Head of the Home Civil Service

Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO

Ref. A084/3351

13 December 1984

My dear Anthony,

China: Possible Visit by Her Majesty
The Queen

You sent me a copy of your letter of 7 December to Robin Butler. Like Robin, I should be content with the line recommended in your letter, and I should be happy to see that incorporated into the briefs for the China and Hong Kong visits.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Robin Butler.

Yours ever
Robert

Sir Antony Acland KCMG KCVO

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For. Rt : PM visit of China etc. 11/84.