



cc/pc ccl  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

1 April 1986

*mb*  
*in detail*  
*Perhaps we could discuss this together. This is the kind of thing I covered*  
Dear William,

*John asked that Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary should discuss this and report to you*

We have seen copies of the exchange of letters between Charles Powell and yourself on the subject of wealthy Hong Kong Chinese businessmen who wish to acquire British citizenship. *N<sup>2</sup>/4*

*No-one is suggesting that*  
The Foreign Secretary's initial view is that, in addition to the difficult question of principle involved, we would create major difficulties for ourselves, and for confidence in Hong Kong, if we were seen as "selling" British citizenship to certain wealthy Chinese.

We have also consulted the Governor of Hong Kong. Given the current extreme sensitivity of nationality issues in Hong Kong, he finds it difficult to judge at present what the local reaction would be to our granting British citizenship to these wealthy Chinese businessmen. His advice is that if possible we should defer consideration of the issue for a few weeks, and examine it further in the light of reactions in Hong Kong to the Government's eventual decisions on the nationality Order in Council. Sir Geoffrey Howe believes that this would be a sensible way to proceed.

I am copying this letter to Charles Powell (No 10).

Yours Sincerely,  
Colin Budd

(C R Budd)  
Private Secretary

W R Fittall Esq  
PS/Home Office

HONA KONA Meetings with Sandberg 8/83

