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cc/BUP  
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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 September 1986

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister  
Some additional  
material for your  
meeting with  
EXCO.  
CDP  
9/9

Hong Kong: Call by the Governor  
and Members of the Executive Council

Please refer to my letter of 8 September, enclosing briefing for tomorrow's call on the Prime Minister by the Governor and members of the Executive Council of Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong delegation called on Mr Renton today for a long and useful discussion which continued over lunch. No major points were raised which are not fully covered in the Prime Minister's briefing. It is likely however that in describing to the Prime Minister the state of confidence in Hong Kong the delegation may refer to the functioning of the new Legislative Council, the first to contain an indirectly elected element, since its election in September 1985. In general it has settled down well and functioned smoothly. But the controversy over the Daya Bay nuclear project has led to more outspoken behaviour on the part of a minority of members which might cause some misgivings both in Peking and among some Hong Kong people about the possible implications of introducing directly elected members into the council in 1988.

There was a long discussion of the Daya Bay project, and Mr Renton described the Government's position. It will however no doubt still be helpful if the Prime Minister can revert to this along the lines of her brief. Otherwise discussion is likely to concentrate on the constitutional issues covered in paragraphs 4-7 of the brief.

I enclose the draft of a press statement which might be issued at the conclusion of the meeting. We have discussed it informally with the Governor. The delegation are likely to attach particular importance to the assurances contained in the paragraph on Daya Bay, which has been cleared as necessary with other Whitehall Departments.

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As you know, Sir S Y Chung will not after all attend the meeting. The next in seniority is Mr Oswald Cheung. When the Prime Minister pays tribute to the two retiring members of ExCo (see paragraph 1 of the brief) she will wish to note that Mr Cheung has precedence over Sir Michael Sandberg.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Timothy Walker (DTI) and Geoff Dart (Department of Energy).

*Yours ever*

*R N Culshaw*

(R N Culshaw)  
Private Secretary

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CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY THE GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF HONG KONG

Draft Press Statement

1. The Prime Minister had a meeting this afternoon with the Governor and Members of the Executive Council of Hong Kong. The Minister of State at the FCO with responsibility for Hong Kong, Mr Tim Renton, was also present.
2. The meeting reviewed developments in Hong Kong since the Prime Minister's visit to the territory in December 1984 and the ratification in May 1985 of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the question of Hong Kong. The Prime Minister expressed appreciation of the continuing close consultation between Ministers and the Executive Council of Hong Kong, and of the valuable role played by Members of the Council in tendering advice and in representing the views and interests of the Hong Kong people.
3. The meeting expressed pleasure at the progress achieved in implementing the Joint Declaration over the 15 months since it came into effect. They noted with particular satisfaction the positive achievements of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group, which has now held four meetings, and of the Land Commission, which has now met on ten occasions.
4. The Members of the Council stressed to the Prime Minister the importance of the Review of representative government to be conducted by the Hong Kong Government in 1987. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the British Government's commitment to the 1987 Review, and confirmed that full account would be taken of the views of the people of Hong Kong when drawing conclusions from the Review.

5. The Members of the Council conveyed to the Prime Minister the concern expressed in Hong Kong over safety aspects of the Daya Bay project. The Prime Minister assured them that the British Government was fully aware of its responsibilities for the welfare and well-being of the people of Hong Kong, and had reflected these concerns to the Chinese Government on several occasions. In the light of its discussions with the other Governments concerned, it was confident that every effort would be made to ensure that the construction, operation and management of the plant would be carried out to the highest possible safety standards.



HONG KONG: future PT18

