



10 DOWNING STREET

The Private Secretary

5 July 1982

*Copy Policy on PM's Trip to China
Japan
Far East of Hong Kong*

*Original in PM's Office
Address for Far East
Japan*

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO JAPAN, CHINA AND HONG KONG

I put to the Prime Minister over the weekend the questions raised in your letters of 24 June and 2 July, together with the programme suggested in Hong Kong telegram No. 663 for the Hong Kong part of the tour.

*See PM's Tour
Address for Far
East Tour*

As I explained to you on the telephone earlier today, the Prime Minister would like to postpone decisions on the programme until she has had the opportunity to discuss her visit with Sir Percy Cradock and Sir Hugh Cortazzi. For various reasons, I do not think it will be possible to arrange these calls until towards the end of this month. Unless it causes you difficulty, therefore, I shall aim to let you have the Prime Minister's firm views on the programme for the whole visit before she leaves for her summer holidays.

The Prime Minister has noted that it will be necessary to decide in the next few weeks how the difficult question of the future of Hong Kong should be handled during her Far Eastern tour. The matter will doubtless arise when Sir Murray McLehose pays his farewell call on Mrs. Thatcher on 23 July. Thereafter, we have arranged an informal meeting to discuss the question on 28 July (at 9.30 a.m.). I have it in mind, subject to any comments you may have, to ask Sir Percy Cradock and Sir Hugh Cortazzi to call on the Prime Minister at 1500 and 1530 hours respectively on that day. Perhaps you would kindly consult Brian Fall, with whom I discussed these matters the other day, and let me know if you see any difficulty in these arrangements.

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.