



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 April 1984

Dear John,

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Future of Hong Kong: Visit by Governor and Unofficials to London

It has become customary for a press release to be issued after the meetings which the Governor of Hong Kong and the Unofficial Members of the Executive Council have held with the Prime Minister. We believe it would be helpful to Hong Kong if there could be one on this occasion too.

/ I enclose a suggested text. It is very similar in its  
/ language to the press release issued after the previous  
meeting on 16 January. (I enclose this text too for ease of  
reference.) We do not think this matters. Any non-essential  
changes in language would be subject to close analysis in  
Hong Kong and unwarranted conclusions could easily be drawn.  
We have discussed the text with the Governor's Private  
Secretary. In the time available, I have not been able to  
show it to Sir Geoffrey Howe.

I should be grateful if you would let us know as soon  
as the text and its time of release has been agreed so that  
we can warn Hong Kong in advance.

Yours ever,

Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



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 UNCLASSIFIED  
 FM F C O 171625Z JAN 84  
 TO IMMEDIATE PEKING  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 35 OF 17 JANUARY  
 INFO ROUTINE HONG KONG

## FUTURE OF HONG KONG:

FOLLOWING STATEMENT ISSUED FROM NO 10 ON 16 JANUARY.

'THE PRIME MINISTER MET THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG AND THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON 16 JANUARY. SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AND MR LUCE WERE ALSO PRESENT, AS WERE SIR RICHARD EVANS, WHO WILL SHORTLY BE TAKING UP HIS APPOINTMENT AS HM AMBASSADOR IN PEKING, AND SIR PERCY CRADOCK. THE PROGRAMME FOR THE GOVERNOR AND THE UNOFFICIALS ALSO INCLUDES SEPARATE CALLS ON SIR GEOFFREY HOWE AND MR LUCE. THIS WAS THE THIRD VISIT BY THE GOVERNOR AND THE UNOFFICIALS SINCE JULY 1983. MINISTERS REAFFIRMED HMG'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG AND TO THE SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO PARLIAMENT, TO CHINA AND TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS THERE WAS A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TALKS. IT PRODUCED A CLOSE IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON THE MATTERS INVOLVED.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THEY CONTINUE TO ATTACH TO KEEPING THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FULLY INFORMED AND TO RECEIVING THEIR ADVICE. THE GOVERNOR AND THE UNOFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THIS FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER AND HER COLLEAGUES, AND FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

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FUTURE OF HONG KONG  
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