

UMELCO

Office of Unofficial Members of Executive and Legislative Councils
行政立法兩局非官守議員辦事處

9th May 1984

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Lu

I have replied on
X.

14.
5

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

Subject: The Future of Hong Kong

We understand that the future of Hong Kong will be the subject of a whole day debate in the House of Commons during the week commencing 14th May.

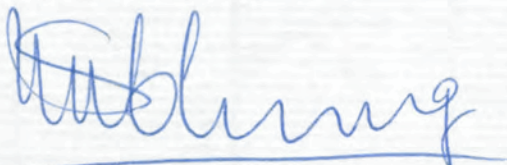
The Sino-British talks on the future of Hong Kong commenced in 1982 and have been conducted in the strictest confidence. The subject was debated in the Hong Kong Legislative Council on 14th March 1984 and a summary of some of the key points expressed in the course of the debate together with the Hansard record was forwarded to you earlier. Since then the Foreign Secretary's statement on 20th April lifted the veil for the first time from some aspects of the negotiations.

The Foreign Secretary's statement disclosed the British withdrawal from Hong Kong in 1997 and mentioned a framework of arrangements for Hong Kong as a part of China. The position revealed has aroused great concern and the Unofficial Members of the Hong Kong Executive and Legislative Councils are sending a delegation to London to meet with Ministers and Members of Parliament in order to reflect and to underline the views and wishes of Hong Kong people before the Commons debate.

X | We will be arriving in London on 10th May and hope to have the opportunity to see you to discuss this issue. We are also pleased to forward the paper attached which sets out the unanimous position of the Unofficial Members of both the Executive and Legislative Councils.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely,



S.Y. CHUNG
Senior Unofficial Member

UMELCO

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS
OF HONG KONG



1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

1 Lord Belstead, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, accompanied by the Governor, attends a meeting with UMELCO.

2 The Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, visits the UMELCO Office.

3 UMELCO Members inspect the Hong Kong International Mail Centre.

4 UMELCO Members see accommodation for Vietnamese refugees in the Chi Ma Wan Closed Camp.

5 The Legislative Council in session.

6 UMELCO Members see recruits of the Hong Kong Military Service Corps receiving training at Lyemun Barracks.

7 UMELCO Members being briefed on developments in the Islands District.

8 UMELCO Members visit the back streets of Kwun Tong.

9 Press Briefing by the UMELCO Education Panel.

UMELCO

Swire House, 12th floor, 9-25 Chater Road, Hong Kong

UMELCO Office (London)
(for the period 10th - 17th May 1984)

The Portman Intercontinental Hotel
22 Portman Square
London W1

Tel (01) 486 5844
Telex 261526

Statement issued by the Unofficial Members of the Hong Kong Executive and Legislative Councils on 9th May 1984:

THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG

The Executive and Legislative Councils are the two central organs of the Government of Hong Kong. Unofficial Members are in the majority in both councils. They are appointed by the Governor from a wide spectrum of society. Through their membership of these two Councils, Unofficial Members advise on the formulation of Government policies, participate in the enactment of legislation, monitor the effectiveness of public administration and consider complaints by members of the public against Government Departments.

As they are appointed by the Governor rather than elected, Unofficial Members make no claim to representative status, but they are in touch with all sectors of the community through their membership of over 300 boards and committees dealing with public affairs, and with all facets of Hong Kong's economic and social life. Since the Sino-British talks on the future of Hong Kong began in late 1982, Unofficial Members have received, both individually and through the UMELCO Office, many representations on the question of Hong Kong's future after 1997. So they are in a position to reflect the views and wishes of Hong Kong people on this vital question.

The Sino-British talks have been conducted throughout in the strictest confidence, although there have been many statements from the Chinese side. Sir Geoffrey Howe's Statement in Hong Kong on 20th April publicly lifted the veil for the first time from the British side on some aspects of the talks. *Inter alia* he said that:

- It would not be realistic to think of an agreement that provides for continued British administration in Hong Kong after 1997.
- Other ways were being explored to secure the assurances necessary for the continuation of Hong Kong's stability, prosperity and way of life and, although Hong Kong would become a part of China, it would enjoy, as a Special Administrative Region, a high degree of autonomy.
- The Chinese leadership claim that they wish existing systems and freedoms in Hong Kong and the free market economy to remain fundamentally unchanged for at least 50 years after 1997.

Hong Kong has enjoyed a constitutional link with the British Crown for 143 years. This link has provided an effective external insulator against interference from the ruling government on the Mainland, despite the turbulence which has characterised China's history for so many years and despite the essential incompatibility of the political system prevailing in present day China, on the one hand, and the liberal traditions of a capitalist society, on the other.

It is now suggested that this link should be removed but that, in order to achieve a high degree of autonomy for Hong Kong under Chinese sovereignty, there would be a devolution of power from the Central People's Government to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region *via* a Basic Law to be promulgated in the early 1990's. Hong Kong people are being asked to accept, in other words, that the Chinese Government will resume sovereignty and exercise administrative control over the whole of Hong Kong after 1997, against a promise that Hong Kong's existing systems and accustomed life style will remain unchanged.

But many anxious questions spring to mind to which no satisfactory answers have been given as yet. For instance:

- Will the essential elements of the Basic Law be enshrined in the Sino-British Agreement? If not, would not the British Government run the risk of signing an agreement which the Chinese side may later unilaterally alter on the grounds that it is in conflict with the Basic Law?
- In the final analysis, the more detailed the Agreement, the more that the Basic Law is compatible with it and the more binding it is in form, the more likely that the people of Hong Kong will find it acceptable in the belief that the Chinese are more likely to honour it. Thus, if the Agreement *is* to be *signed* before the Basic Law is promulgated, should not Parliament withhold *ratification* until the details of the Basic Law are known?
- Even so, given the historical reality that Hong Kong has developed over many years as a recognisable community in its own right, with its own distinctive life-style, surely Hong Kong people have the right to ask for assurances that any Agreement entered into between the British and Chinese Governments will be honoured? That is to say, should not the British Government insist on a mechanism which will ensure that the agreement is faithfully implemented?
- To this end, should not Britain insist on retaining some residual status in Hong Kong beyond 1997 to provide re-assurance that the terms of the Agreement will be kept?
- Given the possibility that the Chinese authorities will seek to anticipate 1997 and start interfering with the administration of Hong Kong between now and then, will the British Government insist that it must retain effective control, as the sovereign power, during the next 13 years? If effective control is not exercised by the Hong Kong Government under the authority of HMG, a smooth transition up to, let alone stable government beyond, 1997 will not be possible for Hong Kong people will not feel it is worthwhile even to try to adjust to their new circumstances. A collapse of confidence before 1997 would make Hong Kong virtually ungovernable. For example, the allegiance of the police and the civil service will be seriously impaired. Quite apart from the disastrous effect on the people of Hong Kong, this would be as embarrassing to the British Government as a ruined economy would be disappointing to the Chinese Government.
- About half of Hong Kong's present population of 5.3 millions came to Hong Kong from China to seek a better life here. They do not relish the thought of a return to Chinese Communist rule. But what of the rest of the population? They are British nationals by birth (a small number by naturalisation) holding British passports with a right of abode in the British Dependent Territory of Hong Kong. Parliament may cede sovereignty over the territory, but it cannot, by the same act, deprive British nationals of their national status. What then will be the fate of Hong Kong's BDTCs? How will their rights and status be preserved? How will BDTCs continue to enjoy British protection? Will they, and other Hong Kong belongers who cannot accept the idea of living under Communist authority, have a right to settlement in the United Kingdom and should not the British Government negotiate settlement places for them?

Recently, when in Hong Kong, Sir Geoffrey Howe said the Agreement must be such that the British Government can commend it to Parliament, but the people of Hong Kong will need to know the terms of the Agreement and have time to express their views, and he added that Parliament itself will need time to reflect and take account of the views of Hong Kong people. The Foreign Secretary was reiterating what has been said many times before, namely, that any Agreement reached between the British and Chinese Governments must be acceptable to the people of Hong Kong. This raises at least two questions:

- How is it proposed that acceptability is put to the test?
- What will be HMG's reaction if Hong Kong people do not accept the Agreement or parts of it?

Parliament cannot take lightly the responsibility of transferring authority over a community (as opposed to the territory) for which the constitutional link with Britain has meant so much for so long to a communist government, albeit the Chinese Government which has a legitimate claim to sovereignty over the territory of Hong Kong itself. The inescapable fact is that the Chinese Government is committed to a political philosophy which is at least incompatible, and at worst hostile, to the philosophy on which the various systems and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong today rest.

It follows that acceptability will depend on the Agreement now being negotiated:

- containing* full details of the proposed administrative, legal, social and economic systems applicable after 1997;
- providing* adequate and workable assurances that the terms of the Agreement will be honoured;
- stating* that the provisions of the Basic Law will incorporate the provisions of the Agreement;
- guaranteeing* that the rights of British nationals will be safeguarded.

We believe that Members of Parliament will wish to take account of our views. We also believe that these views are an accurate reflection of the views of Hong Kong people as a whole, to whom the imminent withdrawal of the British link has been a great, if not entirely unexpected, disappointment.

UMELCO

Office of Unofficial Members of Executive and Legislative Councils
Swire House, 12th floor, 9-25 Chater Road, Hong Kong. Tel: 5-264027

UMELCO

DELEGATION TO LONDON — MAY 1984

MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Sir Sze-yuen CHUNG, CBE,
LLD, DSC, JP

b.: 3.11.1917

Executive Council:

Senior Unofficial Member (since 1.9.80)
Member (1.7.72-31.8.80)

Legislative Council:

Member (1.7.68-30.6.74)
Senior Unofficial Member (1.7.74-31.8.78)

Education and Professional Qualifications:

B.Sc. (Eng.) (1st Class Honours), University of Hong Kong
Ph.D. (Engineering Science), University of Sheffield
D.Sc. (Honoris Causa), University of Hong Kong
LL.D. (Honoris Causa), Chinese University of Hong Kong
British Council Research Scholar
Fellow, Fellowship of Engineering, United Kingdom
Chartered Mechanical & Production Engineer in the UK
Honorary Fellow, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, London
Honorary Fellow, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Honorary Fellow, Asian Productivity Organisation, Japan
Fellow, Institution of Production Engineers, London
Companion, British Institution of Management

Principal Occupation:

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Sonca Industries Ltd.

Public Service:

Chairman, Council of the Hong Kong Polytechnic
Chairman, Hong Kong/Japan Business Co-operation Committee
Chairman, ICAC Complaints Committee
Chairman, Planning Committee for the City Polytechnic
Chairman, Standing Commission on Civil Service Salaries and Conditions of Service
Convener, UMELCO Staff Steering Panel
Member, Council of University of Hong Kong
Member, Hong Kong Branch Executive Committee of Hong Kong Association
Member, Po Leung Kuk Advisory Board
Member, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Advisory Board

Vice Patron, Community Chest of Hong Kong
Honorary Life President, Federation of Hong Kong Industries

Mr. Lobo, Rogerio Hyndman,

CBE, LLD, JP

b.: 15.9.1923

Executive Council:

Member (since 1.9.78)

Legislative Council:

Member (1.7.72-31.8.81)
Senior Unofficial Member (since 1.9.81)

Education and Professional Qualifications:

Escola Central, Macao
Seminario de S. Jose, Macao
Liceu Nacional Infante D. Henrique, Macao
La Salle College, Hong Kong
LL.D. (Honoris Causa), University of Hong Kong

Principal Occupation:

Chairman, P. J. Lobo & Co. Ltd.

Public Service:

Chairman, Advisory Committee on Corruption of the ICAC
Commissioner, Civil Aid Services
Convener, UMELCO Housing Panel
Member, Court of University of Hong Kong
Member, Hong Kong Housing Authority
Member, ICAC Complaints Committee
Member, Landlord and Tenant (Consolidation) Review Committee
Member, Medical Development Advisory Committee
Member, Tenancy Tribunal Panel
Member, UMELCO Public Relations Panel
Member, UMELCO Security Panel
Member, UMELCO Staff Steering Panel
Vice Patron, Community Chest of Hong Kong
Vice Patron, The Hong Kong Society for the Aged

Mr. LO Tak-shing, CBE, MA, JP

b.: 23.1.1935

Executive Council:

Member (since 1.4.80)

Legislative Council:

Member (since 1.7.74)

Education and Professional Qualifications:

Lingnam Primary School, Canton Lingnam
Middle School, Hong Kong
King's College, Taunton
Wadham College, Oxford

Principal Occupation:

Solicitor & Partner, Lo & Lo Solicitors

Public Service:

Chairman, Establishment Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee, Legislative Council
Chairman, UMELCO Police Group
Convener, LegCo General Services Working Group
Convener, UMELCO Civil Service Panel
Convener, UMELCO Security Panel
President, Hong Kong Playground Association
Member, Court of University of Hong Kong
Member, English Schools Foundation
Member, Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong
Member, Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee Panel
Member, LegCo Legislation Scrutiny Working Group
Member, UMELCO Staff Steering Panel

Miss TAM, Maria Wai-chu, JP

b.: 2.11.1945

Executive Council:

Member (since 1.9.83)

Legislative Council:

Member (since 1.9.81)

Education and Professional Qualifications:

St. Paul's Co-Educational College, Hong Kong
LL.B., London University
Member of Gray's Inn

Principal Occupation:

Barrister-at-Law

Public Service:

Member, Action Committee Against Narcotics
Member, Board of Education
Member, Central and Western District Board
Member, Council of the Chinese University of Hong Kong
Member, Hong Kong Housing Authority
Member, LegCo Community Services Working Group

Member, LegCo Legislation Scrutiny Group
Member, Transport Advisory Committee
Member, UMELCO Education and Manpower Panel
Member, UMELCO Lands and Works Panel
Member, UMELCO Security Panel
Member, Urban Council

Mr. CHEUNG, Benton Yan-lung,

MBE, S.B.St.J., JP

b.: 18.4.1922

Legislative Council:
Member (since 1.9.81)

Education and Professional Qualifications:
La Salle College, Hong Kong
B.A., University of Dr. SUN Yat-sen, Canton

Principal Occupation:
Businessman

Public Service:
Chairman, North District Community Centre and Town Hall Management Committee
Chairman, North District Social Services Committee
Director, Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation
Member, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Committee
Member, Fireworks Displays Vetting Committee
Member, Heung Yee Kuk
Member, Hong Kong Housing Authority
Member, LegCo Community Services Working Group
Member, LegCo General Services Working Group
Member, LegCo Social Services Working Group
Member, North District Board
Member, Police Cadet School Advisory Board
Member, St. John Council
Member, UMELCO Chinese Language Policy Panel
Member, UMELCO Cultural Affairs and Recreation Panel
Member, UMELCO Environmental Affairs Panel
Member, UMELCO Health and Welfare Panel
Member, UMELCO Public Relations Panel

Mr. LEE, Allen Peng-fei, OBE, JP

b.: 24.4.1940

Legislative Council:
Member (since 1.9.78)

Education and Professional Qualifications:
B.S. (Engineering Mathematics), University of Michigan

Principal Occupation:
Managing Director, Ampex World Operations, S.A. Hong Kong

Public Service:
Chairman, Hong Kong Productivity Council
Chairman, Industrial Affairs Committee, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Regional Commander (Hong Kong and Islands), Civil Aid Services

Deputy Convener, LegCo Economic Services Working Group
Member, Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations of the ICAC
Member, Economic Review Committee
Member, General Committee, Federation of Hong Kong Industries
Member, General Committee, Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
Member, Industrial Development Board
Member, Industry Advisory Board
Member, Securities Commission
Member, UMELCO Civil Service Panel
Member, UMELCO Economic Services and Monetary Affairs Panel
Member, UMELCO Housing Panel
Member, UMELCO Trade and Industry Panel
Member, Vocational Training Council

Mrs. CHOW, Selina Shuk-ye (nee LIANG), JP

b.: 25.1.1945

Legislative Council:
Member (since 1.9.81)

Education and Professional Qualifications:
St. Paul's Co-Educational College, Hong Kong
B.A. (English), University of Hong Kong
Post Graduate Diploma, Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama, UK
L.R.A.M. in Drama (Teacher and Performer), A.D.B.

Principal Occupation:
Director, Brainchild Ltd.

Public Service:
Advisor, Against Child Abuse
Member, Agency for Volunteer Service
Member, Council for the Performing Arts
Member, Executive Committee, Housing Society
Member, Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong
Member, LegCo Ad Hoc Group on Review of Correctional Institutions Managed by Social Welfare Department
Member, LegCo Community Services Working Group
Member, LegCo General Services Working Group
Member, LegCo Social Services Working Group
Member, Mong Kok District Board
Member, Provisional Council for the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
Member, UMELCO Cultural Affairs and Recreation Panel
Member, UMELCO Education and Manpower Panel
Member, UMELCO Health and Welfare Panel
Member, UMELCO Public Relations Panel
Member, UMELCO Transport Panel
Member, Urban Council
Member, World Wildlife Fund

Mr. CHEONG, Stephen Kam-chuen, JP

b.: 31.5.1941

Legislative Council:
Member (since 2.12.80)

Education and Professional Qualifications:
La Salle College, Hong Kong
B.Sc. (Engineering), Imperial College, London
M.Phil., London University
Dip., Imperial College, London

Principal Occupation:
Managing Director, Lee Wah Weaving Factory Ltd. and Cheong's Textile Co. Ltd.

Public Service:
Chairman, Transport Complaints Unit
Member, Aviation Advisory Board
Member, Economic Review Committee
Member, General Committee, Federation of Hong Kong Industries
Member, Hong Kong Export Credit Insurance Corporation Advisory Board
Member, Hong Kong Industrial Estates Corporation
Member, LegCo Community Services Working Group
Member, LegCo Economic Services Working Group
Member, LegCo Monetary Policy Working Group
Member, Public Accounts Committee
Member, Statistics Advisory Board
Member, Textiles Advisory Board
Member, Town Planning Board
Member, Transport Advisory Committee
Member, UMELCO Economic Services and Monetary Affairs Panel
Member, UMELCO Environmental Affairs Panel
Member, UMELCO Housing Panel
Member, UMELCO Lands and Works Panel
Member, UMELCO Police Group
Member, UMELCO Trade and Industry Panel
Member, UMELCO Transport Panel

Mr. CHAN, Ying-lun

b.: 6.10.1950

Legislative Council:
Member (since 1.9.83)

Education and Professional Qualifications:
Cognitio College
B.Soc. Sc., University of Hong Kong

Principal Occupation:
Public Relations Manager (Community Affairs), San Miguel Brewery Ltd.

Public Service:
Elected Member, Eastern District Board
Member, Hong Kong Housing Authority
Member, Panel of Assessors
Member, Area Committee 6 (Shauiwan Hillside)
Member, Board of Education
Member, UMELCO Education and Manpower Panel
Member, UMELCO Health and Welfare Panel
Member, UMELCO Housing Panel
Member, UMELCO Public Relations Panel
Member, LegCo Community Services Working Group
Member, LegCo Economic Services Working Group
Member, LegCo General Services Working Group
Member, LegCo Social Services Working Group



file

67

cc: P.C.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

14 May, 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 9 May and the paper which you enclosed. As you will have heard from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Prime Minister looks forward to seeing you and your delegation at 0930 hrs on Tuesday, 15 May.

A. J. COLES

Sir S.Y. Chung, CBE, JP.

VC