

S E C R E T



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 May 1984

Dear John,

Hong Kong: UMELCO Visit to London: Proposed Call on Prime Minister

As you know a group of Unofficials from the Hong Kong Executive and Legislative Councils are visiting London, mainly to lobby MPs in advance of the debate on Hong Kong on 16 May. The group, which is led by Sir S Y Chung, contains a total of ten members. (I enclose a list)

Although the visit is different in form and purpose from the previous visits by Unofficials of EXCO, which were part of HMG's regular consultations, the group are being seen at their request by Mr Luce and by the Foreign Secretary on the afternoon and evening respectively of 15 May. Sir S Y Chung has now passed a request through the Acting Governor that they should be received by the Prime Minister. We recommend that this should be agreed, if Mrs Thatcher's programme will allow it. As you know, the Unofficials are in a state of some tension and particularly conscious of their role in representing what they see as Hong Kong views, to Ministers and MPs. Their manifesto, issued on the eve of their departure from Hong Kong and sent to a wide range of Members of Parliament and other figures in London (my letter of 10 May) has been badly received by the Chinese (Zhou Nan took Richard Evans to task for it at the latest round of talks). There clearly are problems arising from the position of the Unofficials (particularly EXCO members) as confidential advisers to the Governor and their role as reflectors of opinion. In these circumstances it would be helpful if the Prime Minister could listen to their concerns and take the opportunity to discuss how the Unofficials can best operate publicly in order to help us to negotiate the best possible agreement with the Chinese.

If a meeting is arranged we shall of course supply a brief. In addition the Secretary of State is seeing Sir S Y privately this afternoon. We shall let you know if any points arise from that meeting.

For ever,
(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

Peter Ricketts

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

S E C R E T



UMELCO DELEGATION

Sir Sze-Yuen Chung CBE

Mr O V Cheung CBE QC

Mr R H Lobo CBE

Mr T S Lo CBE

Miss Maria Tam

Mr Allen Lee OBE

Mrs Selina Chow

Mr Stephen Cheong

Mr Y L Cheung MBE

Mr Y L Chan
