

行政立法兩局
非官守議員辦事處

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Senior Unofficial Member
Sir S. Y. Chung, CBE, LL.D, D.Sc, PhD, JP

Office of Unofficial Members of
Executive and Legislative Councils

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來函檔號 Your Ref:

Date: 26 May 1984

本函檔號 Our Ref: SYC/LH

Mr. John Coles
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
London SW1
England

Prime Minister.

A.S.C. 7.

Dear Mr Coles,

When the Umelco Delegation was in London, there were criticisms from some Members of Parliament saying that the views and wishes expressed in the Umelco Statement issued on 9 May 1984 were those of a small minority of people in Hong Kong.

On 25 May a study conducted by Survey Research Hong Kong Limited (an independent research firm) was published in the South China Morning Post. The survey shows 82 percent of the random sample of 605 people approved in total or in part of the Umelco Statement and only a tiny 3 percent expressed disapproval. A photocopy of the publication is attached.

It should be appreciated if you would kindly submit this survey result to the Prime Minister for her information.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

S Y Chung

Enclosure

South China Morning Post

Vol. XL No. 143

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1984

Price \$2.00

A solid 'Yes' vote for Umelco 80pc of quizzed approve

By HALIMA GUTERRES

The people of Hongkong have given Umelco's document of doubt a firm thumbs up, according to a special survey commissioned by the SCM Post.

The study conducted by SRH (Survey Research Hongkong Ltd), an independent research firm, found that eight out of 10 people interviewed said they approved, at least to a certain extent, the statement issued on the eve of Umelco's London mission.

The statement has sparked a major controversy in both London and Peking, with members of parliament as well as Chinese leaders condemning it as unrepresentative of the views of Hongkong people.

The survey, however, paints a totally different picture and appears to be a clear vindication of the Umelco line.

And as a further vote of confidence in Umelco, the survey found that four out of 10 people interviewed believed the statement would have a positive effect and that it would result in a more favourable agreement for Hongkong after 1997.

The high degree of support for the Umelco statement is significant, particularly in the light of attacks from British members of parliament — notably Mr Edward Heath — who claim that Umelco does

Where views came from

The survey was conducted by telephone among a random sample of 605 people from a wide cross-section of the community.

Of the total, 336 were men and 269 women.

White collar workers accounted for 135, blue collar workers 281, and the rest were either retired, housewives, students or unemployed.

The respondents, aged 19 and above, were interviewed between last Friday and Sunday — nine days after the Umelco statement was issued — and the findings were tabulated by computer.

not represent the views of Hongkong people.

And the results are clearly at variance with the belief of some MPs that Umelco represents the views of only a minority of people here.

When asked if they approved or disapproved of the statement, 41 per cent of the respondents indicated full approval, another 41 per cent said they approved in part and only a tiny three per cent disapproved of the statement.

The remaining 15 per cent had no opinion, a figure which our researchers said was not high and which indicated wide public interest in the statement.

While the timing of Umelco's visit has come under fire from the former Governor of Hongkong, Lord MacLehose, opinions in Hongkong were split down the middle on this question.

About four out of 10 peo-

What the people think

An SCM Post special survey

The following are the questions posed to the 605 respondents in the survey:

Question 1.

Awareness of Umelco Statement	Of all respondents
Have seen or heard reports of the Umelco Statement	73%
Never heard of it	27%
	100%

In full	Of all respondents
	2%

From	Of all respondents
From TV	57%
From newspaper summary	38%
From radio	28%
From conversation	17%

● Respondents can check more than one answer each, hence total is more than 100 per cent.

Question 2.

Degree of approval or disapproval of statement	Of all respondents
Full approval	41%
Approve in part	41%
Disapprove of it	3%
No opinion	15%

ple (39 per cent) felt the statement was made at the right time but roughly the same number (42 per cent) disagreed.

Of those who disagreed with the timing, 22 per cent said the statement came too late and 20 per cent thought it was too early.

Almost half of those interviewed (45 per cent) endorsed the views expressed in the statement.

Interestingly the next largest group of respondents (23 per cent) felt the manifesto was too cautious, even though it has already sparked an uproar in both London and Peking.

Only 13 per cent felt the statement was too strong and the remaining 19 per cent held no views on the subject.

Questioned about their views on the effect of the statement on the Peking talks,

Question 3.

Views on timing of statement	Of all respondents
Right time	39%
Too late	22%
Too soon	20%
No opinion	19%

Question 4.

Views on expression of statement	Of all respondents
Just right	45%
Too cautious	23%
Too strongly expressed	13%
No opinion	19%

Question 5.

Views on effect of statement on Peking talks	Of all respondents
Result in a more favourable agreement for Hongkong	39%
No effect	24%
Result in a less favourable agreement for Hongkong	17%
No opinion	20%

sation, which would support the view that Umelco was a great talking point among Hongkong people.

Five questions were posed to the respondents and after the first one, which dealt with awareness of the statement, the interviewers read out a 250-word summary of the Umelco statement to the respondents.

The purpose of this was to refresh the memories of respondents.

The summary outlined the Umelco statement and drew attention to the fact that it "stresses the concerns and fears felt by many organisations and individuals who have made representations to it (Umelco) in recent months on the question of Hongkong's future as a special administrative zone under Chinese sovereignty after 1997.

"Specifically it asks whether the UK Government could retain 'some residual status' in Hongkong after that date and it seeks guarantees that the rights of British nationality will be safeguarded after British withdrawal.

"It advocates that the essential elements of the Basic Law be stated in the Sino-British agreement and likewise the provisions of the Basic Law will incorporate the provisions of the agreement.

"The statement reflects concern over the way negotiations over Hongkong's future have been progressing and a distrust of Chinese authorities to honour the terms of the agreement on Hongkong's future.

"It sets out the unanimous views of the Unofficial members of the Executive and Legislative Councils."



Sir Sze-yuen ... I am very pleased.

We're happy says Sir S.Y.

The leader of the Umelco delegation to London, Sir Sze-yuen Chung, said last night the results of the SCM Post survey "proves that we have our finger on the pulse of public opinion."

When the results of the findings were revealed to him last night in a telephone interview, Sir Sze-yuen said he was "pleased" and "encouraged" by the findings.

"There has never been any question in my mind that we were accurately reflecting the views and wishes, fears and feelings of the people of Hongkong, but while I was confident that we had it right there was no way we could prove it.

"Now we have an independent survey to prove it, and I am very pleased," he said.

The survey was carried out in confidence and Umelco members were not told about it until the results were received.

He was particularly heartened by the fact that 81 per cent of the respondents indicated support for the Umelco statement, either in part or in full.

"I had counted on support from about three-quarters of the people in Hongkong, so in fact the results are a bit higher than I had expected. It's very good," Sir Sze-yuen said.

I am happy — Sir S.Y.

(Cont'd from Page 1) public Britain's intention to relinquish sovereignty over Hongkong.

Sir Geoffrey's statement was not made until April 20.

"If we had said anything before then it would have been branded as being unduly speculative since people in Hongkong did not know which way we were going.

"So the timing was beyond our control," he said.

With about half the respondents indicating that the views expressed in the statement were right, and an equal number feeling it was either too cautious or too strongly

worded, Sir Sze-yuen felt it indicates that "we have struck just about the right tone."

He felt the fact that 39 per cent of the respondents believe the Umelco statement will result in a more favourable agreement on Hongkong shows that "on the whole it is balanced in our favour."

Sir Sze-yuen was disappointed and surprised that "only" 73 per cent of the respondents were aware of the statement.

After the blitz of media publicity given to the manifesto, he said he had expected even more people to know about it.

(Cont'd on Page 10, Col 7)



file No

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 June 1984

Thank you for your letter of 26 May, enclosing the results of a study by Survey Research Hong Kong Ltd. I shall bring this to the attention of the Prime Minister.

A. J. COLES

Sir S. Y. Chung, C.B.E., LL.D.



File

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

4 June 1984

HONG KONG

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received from Sir S. Y. Chung, which I have acknowledged.

A. J. COLES

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.