

ck

Prime Minister



Given the background - Foreign and Commonwealth Office
you may like to see his
letter and my proposed reply.

London SW1A 2AH

1 June 1984

A.S.C. 1/6.

G/R.

✓ Please type.
M 4/6.

Dear John,

Thompson
mt

Future of Hong Kong:
Lieutenant-Commander Murray-Jones

With your letter of 23 May, you enclosed a letter from Lieutenant-Commander Murray-Jones about our policy towards Hong Kong.

As requested, I enclose a draft reply for your signature.

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: ~~minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note~~
XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

A J Coles Esq

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Lieutenant Commander P J Murray Jones
 603 Kam Chung Building
 54 Jaffe Road
 Wan Chai
 HONG KONG

Copies to:

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank
~~Thank~~ you for your letter of 16 May to the Prime Minister.
~~I have been asked to reply~~ and to let you have the
following reply.

CAVEAT.....

The British Government's aim is to reach agreement with the Chinese Government on arrangements which will provide a stable future for the people of Hong Kong. The future of Hong Kong has to be seen against the background of the fact that the lease over the New Territories, which amounts to 92% of Hong Kong's total land area, is due to expire in 1997. The expiry of this lease is a fact that the British Government must take into account in the negotiations.

The Foreign Secretary made clear in his statement in Hong Kong on 20 April that it would not be realistic to think of an agreement that provided for continued British administration in Hong Kong after 1997. This conclusion was reached after every possibility had been explored. It is a conclusion that emerged inescapably from the negotiations and above all from the reality of the expiry in 1997 of the New Territories lease. In the negotiations we are therefore examining other ways of securing the assurances

Enclosures—flag(s).....

necessary for the continuity of Hong Kong's stability, prosperity and way of life.

The British Government continues to work for an agreement which will be acceptable to China, to Parliament and to the people of Hong Kong. We are seeking a binding international agreement in which arrangements for Hong Kong's continuing prosperity and stability, based on a substantial degree of autonomy, would be formally recorded. Such an agreement would by itself create a legal and political obligation binding the two governments involved. The international prestige of both countries would then be at stake. The Chinese Government, like our own, attaches the highest importance to their country's international reputation. Moreover, we would share a clear common interest that Hong Kong should continue to flourish. That would be an important additional incentive to maintain the agreement.

Throughout our negotiations with the Chinese Government, there has been a continuous process of consultations with the people of Hong Kong on all matters relating to the territory's future. The people of Hong Kong have made their views known through a wide range of channels. We take full account of these views in the negotiations. The British Government are at present actively considering the best method for the people of Hong Kong to express their views on a draft agreement. Whatever method is chosen, you may be assured that the people of Hong Kong will have a full opportunity to make their views known.

Hong Kong - Future A 14



POST OFFICE
HONG KONG

HONG KONG FUTURE PT 14.

P. R.

NOTE FOR FILE

Correspondence about Commander Murray Jones and No. 10 security is held by the Security Co-ordinator.

P.S. Joce
P. S. Joce

20 June 1984



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 May 1984

HONG KONG

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Lieutenant Commander Murray-Jones about our policy towards Hong Kong.

BF // I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft reply for my signature on behalf of the Prime Minister.

AC

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

NR.