



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 August 1982

Sir John Burgh, KCMG, CB,
The British Council,
10 Spring Gardens,
London, SW1A 2BN.

RA
24/8

Dear Sir John,

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO HONG KONG

*Hong Kong
Prime Minister's visit
July 82*

As Nicky Gordon Lennox is on leave, I am replying to your letter of 6 August asking if the Prime Minister would have time to see something of the British Council's operations in Hong Kong during her visit next month to the Far East.

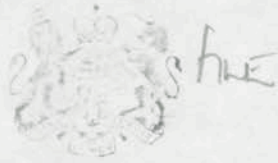
We have looked at your request carefully but, as you may know, the Prime Minister will only be in Hong Kong for just over two days. Her programme there is a tight one and is already fully booked. I regret, therefore, that it will not be possible to squeeze in a visit to the British Council's office. However, the Governor will be inviting the British Council Representative in Hong Kong to his reception for the Prime Minister on 27 September, which I hope will give the Representative an opportunity to tell the Prime Minister something about the Council's activities in Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,
James Adams
W.J. Adams

Copy to: J. Coles, Esq.,
10 Downing Street. ✓

24 AUG 1962





RM
Hong Kong

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 August, 1982

Thank you for your letter of 19 August about the request from Sir John Burgh for the Prime Minister to see something of the British Council's operations in Hong Kong during her visit next month. I can confirm that we see no difficulty with the line you propose to take in response to Sir John.

(Timothy Flesher)

J E Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 August 1982

Dear Tim,

Prime Minister's Visit to Hong Kong

You will have received a copy of Sir John Burgh's letter of 6 August to Lord N Gordon Lennox asking if the Prime Minister might have time to see something of the British Council's operations in Hong Kong during her visit next month.

As you know the Prime Minister has already agreed the outline programme for her Hong Kong visit. We have looked carefully at Sir John's request but the programme is a tight one and both we and the Governor, whom we consulted by telephone, agree that there would not be time to fit in a visit to the British Council office. The Governor is however inviting the British Council Representative to the reception for the Prime Minister at Government House on 27 September, which should give the Representative an opportunity to tell the Prime Minister something of the Council's activities in Hong Kong.

In the circumstances we propose to reply to Sir John's letter on the lines of paragraph 2 above, provided you see no objection.

Yours ever

John Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

T Flesher Esq
10 Downing Street

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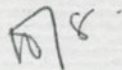
19 AUG 1982

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THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Spring Gardens London SW1A 2BN
telephone 01-930 8466

from The Director-General Sir John Burgh KCMG CB



with compliments

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

10 Spring Gardens London SW1A 2BN
telephone 01-930 8466

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from The Director-General Sir John Burgh KCMG CB

Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox CMG MVO
Superintending Under Secretary
Cultural Relations Department
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Government Offices
Great George Street
London
SW1A 2AH

6 August 1982

I recently had a word with John Coles about the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to the Far East and asked if she might have time to see something of our operations in Hong Kong. Though her programme there is very busy John did not rule out the possibility, and I am writing to ask that it should be considered in the preparation of her programme.

There are two principal reasons why we would particularly value an opportunity to show the Prime Minister our work in Hong Kong. In the first place she would be able to see the largest English language teaching operation we have anywhere in the world with 12,000 students and 120 teachers. We think the Prime Minister would find it impressive. Secondly, our Hong Kong operation is unique in being funded entirely from revenue; not only does it make no call on Government funds (thus enabling us to spread our resources elsewhere) but it also pays from revenue for a range of programmes in Hong Kong which we would not otherwise be able to finance: in particular for the assistance the Council gives the Government of Hong Kong in teacher training, and a lively arts programme.

We are confident therefore that the Prime Minister would find a visit to our office worthwhile and interesting if it can be accommodated in her programme.

I am sending John Coles a copy of this letter.

John Burgh