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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

5 July 1983

Future of Hong Kong: Start of Substantive  
Talks

The Prime Minister has noted the contents of your letter of 1 July.

As I told you on the telephone yesterday, the Prime Minister has expressed some concern that the information which we transmit to the Chinese at the level of sub-committees may never become known to the main political figures in China who will have to take the decisions about the outcome of the talks. She has asked how we intend to ensure that the facts reach the Chinese leadership.

You will see from my letter of 4 July that this matter came up in discussion with the unofficials yesterday. The Governor said that he believed that the plenary sessions of the talks would be the right forum for conveying messages direct to the Chinese leadership.

Since the Prime Minister clearly attaches importance to this point, you may wish to consider whether any further advice should be offered.

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