

MA to me

CD

Charles Powell

HONG KONG

Handwritten scribble

Prime Minister

You will want to be aware of this. It is clear that the people of Hong Kong want you to go to

CD
4X.

Sir Peter Blaker MP, who is Chairman of the Conservative Parliamentary Foreign Affairs committee, telephoned me on Monday in connection with a press report that he had seen, suggesting that the Prime Minister was considering a visit to China as a sort of consummation or final endorsement of the successful negotiations about the future of Hong Kong.

Sir Peter asked me to convey to the Prime Minister's advisers that he was very doubtful about the political value of any such Prime Ministerial trip to China.

First, there were likely to be too many people in the Conservative Party who felt instinctively that we had really given Hong Kong away to the Chinese. Secondly, he recalled a much more robust attitude to the future of Hong Kong which the Prime Minister had taken in some speeches she made many years ago during the Heath administration. Thirdly, he believed that the Chinese would find it very difficult to resist the temptation when the Prime Minister was in Peking of generally making the impression that they had humbled the Iron Lady.

MA

MICHAEL ALISON

3.10.84