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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 March, 1983

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p.a.

Dear John,

Visit of Madame Chen Muhua, Chinese Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade: 24-31 March

The Department has been asked (by OT4) to provide briefing on the future of Hong Kong for Madame Chen's calls on the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry.

As you will be aware, the future of Hong Kong is the subject of sensitive discussions between the United Kingdom and China. It may be that when Madame Chen is here it will be right to discuss Hong Kong's future with her, but whether we say anything and what we might say will depend partly on developments between now and the time of her visit. In any case the Prime Minister herself may wish to raise the subject when she sees Madame Chen.

We therefore propose not to send any briefing now but to review the situation nearer the time.

I am copying this to Jonathan Spencer (Department of Industry) and John Coles (No 10).

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

John Rhodes Esq
Private Secretary
Department of Trade

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