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香港總督府

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
HONG KONG

7 February 1983

Prime Minister

A.S.C. 1/2

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Dear John,

I thought I should let you know that Lee Kuan Yew will be coming to Hong Kong for a private visit from 22nd to 24th March. In this connection, you might like to see the enclosed copy of a letter which he has just sent me in which he comments on the position which the Chinese have taken in the talks.

Yours ever
Teddy

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street
London

Enc.

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*Prime Minister
Singapore*

24 January 1983

Dear Sir Edward

In the past decade I have visited Hongkong almost yearly in early spring to feel the mood of the bankers and traders and to exchange views with your predecessor Murray MacLehose. I wanted to call on you during a proposed private visit from 22 to 24 March.

I am told you have offered me the hospitality of Fanling Lodge. I accept with much pleasure. Furthermore, I was delighted that you propose to come to the Fanling Lodge for dinner - a most agreeable arrangement. My wife and I look forward to meeting Lady Youde and you.

I have followed the developments over Hongkong's future since Mrs Thatcher's visit to Beijing. Earlier in June, last year, Percy Cradock had come through Singapore on his way home on leave. We were contemporaries at Cambridge. He gave me intimation of the possible difficulties. Then in London in mid-July, Mrs Thatcher told me the Chinese Charge d'Affaires, at a pre-visit dinner discussion, had taken a strong position which ignored differences between the new territories and the island itself. Despite these signals, I was surprised by the strong public delineation of Beijing's position on sovereignty over Hongkong. It shows how little I understand the thinking of the rulers in Beijing.

I look forward to our meeting in March.

*Yours Sincerely
Leahurst*

His Excellency Sir Edward Youde, KCMG, MBE
Governor of Hongkong
Government House
Hongkong