

We can leave Shanghai
a little earlier - 8 a.m.



rather, Mr Butler
Shanghai

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Effectively this means arriving
in Hong Kong about 5.30 and would mean
either cutting out the hairdresser or talking with
the Governor and officials in advance of the dinner.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office **FERS**
2.9.

London SW1A 2AH

and just about ~ Prime Minister

fit in this

An extract from your current programme is attached

31 August 1982

kind. I understand at Flag A, showing where

we fly to Hong Kong the FCO and Do I suggest you might fit in a visit
and then drive to Canton. It would eat into unfilled time in your
back across the Prime Minister's Visit to China:
border - it is Possible Visit to Canton a visit to
only a few Canton?
minutes below
and I
can tell
the visit
would
be much
appreciated
not

Tim Flesher wrote to me on 31 August in reply to my letter
of 26 August about the possibility of the Prime Minister stopping
over in Canton.

If the extra visit to Canton is to be undertaken it can really
only be done on 26 September, and this in turn means that we would
have to accept a late arrival in Hong Kong. Given the importance
of some of the discussions due to be held in Peking, it would not
be right to cut short her visit there. As to Shanghai, if the
Prime Minister were to spend less than the 24 hours there at present
envisaged (1030, 25 to 1000, 26 September), the visit would inevitably
focus entirely on the launching of Sir Y-K Pao's ship. Even if this
were accepted, and we think it would have presentational disadvantages,
it would be difficult for the Prime Minister to get to Canton on
the evening of 25 September in time for a suitable function there to
mark her visit. If the original proposal is upheld, on the other
hand, the consequence of a visit to Canton (from the late morning
to the early afternoon of 26 September, and centring on a lunch)
would simply be arrival in Hong Kong 2-3 hours later than planned,
on an afternoon which is at present unfilled. The Hong Kong
Government, as indicated in my earlier letter, have said that nothing
would be lost.

In sum, therefore, if the Prime Minister is to add Canton to
her tour, and we believe there would be some advantage in this,
it is our view that she should only in practice do so on 26 September,
arriving in Hong Kong a little later than originally planned.

Handwritten signature

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

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W Rickett Esq
10 Downing Street

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Form and Content of the
London 1910 Act



ST. MICHAEL'S
26-5-1910