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From the Private Secretary

20 September, 1982.

Dear John,

Japanese views on Soviet/Chinese relations

The Prime Minister told me tonight that at the banquet given for her this evening by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Suzuki had raised the subject of Soviet/Chinese relations. He said that at the 12th Party Congress Deng Xiaoping had laid down conditions for restoring relations with the Soviet Union (the conditions were clear from the speech he had given to the Party Congress). Deng indicated that if his conditions were met, China would repair relations with the Soviet Union. Suzuki had derived the impression that if the conditions were met, the Soviet military deployments on the Chinese border could be reduced. But it was most unlikely that the Soviet Union would accept Deng's stipulations. Mr. Suzuki considered that the significance of all this was that China had even considered restoring relations with the Soviet Union. Previously, all their talk had been about Soviet hegemony. He wondered whether the US appreciated the importance of this.

Mr. Suzuki went on to say that China was still very upset about America's decision to continue supplying arms to Taiwan. He asked the Prime Minister to try to dissuade the US Government from this policy - it was unwise to offend the Chinese on a fundamental point of principle since this could only drive them into the Russian embrace.

The Prime Minister replied to the effect that it would not be possible to dissuade the Americans on a point of principle of this kind. They were committed to the maintenance of Taiwan as a free country based on free enterprise. She had pointed out that in the 9 points which constituted Chinese policy on Taiwan, there was provision for a separate Taiwan, and for Taiwan to have her own forces and defend herself.

Commenting on this conversation, the Prime Minister said that she noted the readiness of Japan to take the easy way out when confronted with a problem. It was clear that no help could be expected from Japan on Hong Kong.

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I am sending copies of this letter to Sir Hugh Cortazzi in Tokyo, Sir Percy Cradock in Peking, and Sir Edward Youde in Hong Kong.

Yours ever

John Colan

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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