



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Department  
for International  
Development

Lord Hannay of Chiswick  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0AA

24 June 2020

*Dear Lord Hannay,*

I am writing to respond to your question regarding US policy towards Hong Kong during a Question for Short Debate on Hong Kong on 4 June (Hansard: c.1510).

We share with the US deep concern at China's proposal to impose national security legislation on Hong Kong. This risks undermining the principle of 'One Country, Two Systems'. It would be in direct conflict with China's international obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration. There is no doubt that Hong Kong's economic success is underpinned by its high degree of autonomy, rights and freedoms, and the rule of law. We are clear that these must be upheld.

We work closely with the US to address our shared concerns on Hong Kong. This includes the Foreign Secretary's recent joint statement on 28 May with his US, Canadian, and Australian counterparts. The Foreign Secretary spoke to Secretary Pompeo on 27 May following the US statement regarding Hong Kong's trade status. They discussed China's proposed legislation, and the importance of upholding Hong Kong's rights, freedoms and autonomy.

We will continue to work closely with international partners, including the US, to call on the Government of China to live up to its obligations and responsibilities as a leading member of the international community. We will also work within International Institutions to ensure that China upholds the commitments they made as co-signatory to the Joint Declaration.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

*Yours sincerely,*

**LORD (TARIQ) AHMAD OF WIMBLEDON**  
Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth  
Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict