

B

LDW 552/17

LDX 682

FDW G 079 17/9

PP PEKING

PP TOKYO

GR 350

CONFIDENTIAL

FM HONG KONG 170920Z SEPT 82

TO PRIORITY PEKING

TELEGRAM NUMBER 452 OF 17 SEPTEMBER

INFO PRIORITY FCO, TOKYO (FOR SIR PERCY CRADOCK AND DONALD)

YOUR TELNO 554 AND FCO 414.

1. AS SEEN FROM HERE THERE IS TOO GREAT AN EMPHASIS ON HONG KONG IN THE CANTON SPEECH.
2. WHILE THEY VALUE HONG KONG HIGHLY THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES, TO WHOM THE PM WILL BE SPEAKING, DO NOT LIKE TO HAVE HONG KONG'S ROLE AND IMPORTANCE TO THEM RUBBED IN PUBLICLY. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THEY WOULD APPRECIATE MORE EMPHASIS ON THEIR PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUANGDONG PROVINCE AND LESS ON THEIR EMBARRASSINGLY SUCCESSFUL SMALL NEIGHBOUR. I DOUBT IF THEY WOULD APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT THAT THE WORLD MEETS CHINA IN HONG KONG.
3. THE SECTION ON THE GUANGDONG NUCLEAR POWER STATION IS ALSO, FROM ONE POINT OF VIEW, TOO DETAILED. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO CHINA LIGHT AND IAER TAKING ELECTRICITY FROM THE GUANGDONG POWER STATION, BUT THE REFERENCE TO 60 PERCENT OF THE POWER STATION'S OUTPUT BEING TAKEN BY HONG KONG IS TOO SPECIFIC AT THIS EARLY STAGE; AND THE DEPENDENCE OF THE PROJECT ON FINANCE FROM HONG KONG SEEMS TO ME THE WRONG POINT TO RUB IN PUBLICLY IN CANTON. WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER TO SPEAK OF THE PROJECT IN GENERAL TERMS AS ONE BEING PROMOTED BY THE GUANGDONG AUTHORITIES TO WHICH HMG, AS THE DISCUSSIONS SHOW, WOULD BE VERY READY TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION.
4. WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT WHATEVER THE PM SAYS IN CANTON IS LIKELY TO BE TAKEN UP AT HER PRESS CONFERENCE HERE, PARTICULARLY IF SHE GOES INTO DETAIL. THERE IS A VOCAL LOCAL ANTI-NUCLEAR LOBBY EMERGING IN HONG KONG WHICH IS MAKING GREAT PLAY WITH THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS (QUOTING, OF COURSE, THREE-MILE ISLAND) AND THE PM WILL NEED TO BE READY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SAFETY ASPECT (I AM TELEGRAPHING SEPARATELY ON THIS POINT).
5. INCIDENTALLY, IT IS EASY FOR HONG KONG REPORTERS TO TRAVEL TO CANTON AND WE WOULD EXPECT QUITE A NUMBER OF THEM TO DO SO. FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE THE CANTON AUTHORITIES GIVE THEM CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE AND IT MIGHT BE WORTH PEKING HAVING A WORD WITH THE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT ON THE CANTON PRESS ARRANGEMENTS.

YOUDE

NNNNK

Mr. Donald

Could you possibly amend the attached speech (only copy) in the light of this telegram and let me have it back as quickly as possible. I want to get it approved while we are in Tokyo.

A J C. 17/9.

pl. put with

my file on

China: Speeches

Mr. Coles

Herewith a draft. But it should be seen by Sir E. Youde in Peking before it is delivered, I think.

Mr. Donald

19/9

for 18/9