

RESTRICTED

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GR 180

Prime Minister

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DESKBY FCO 111300Z

Z Mr. G. 13/8

FM PEKING 11115Z AUG 79
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 712 OF 11 AUGUST 79.
INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG, WASHINGTON, TOKYO AND UKMIS GENEVA
OUR TELNO 711: MV RUDD BANK

ant

1. JIANG ENZHU OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPT. TELEPHONED FIRST SECRETARY AT 111030Z TO SAY THAT THE 120 REFUGEES ABOARD MV RUDD BANK REFUSED TO GO ASHORE IN CHINA. THE SHANGHAI AUTHORITIES WOULD RESPECT THEIR WISHES. THE MASTER OF THE SHIP HAD REQUESTED FOOD AND CLOTHING FOR THE REFUGEES WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED.
2. JIANG WAS UNABLE TO SAY WHETHER THE REFUGEES HAD BEEN OFFERED PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN CHINA OR TEMPORARY REFUGE WITH THE PROSPECT OF SETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE.
3. TWO POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION OPEN TO US ARE:
 - (I) TO PRESS THE CHINESE TO PERSUADE THE REFUGEES TO LAND AGAINST AN ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD BE RESETTLED ELSEWHERE. THIS WOULD PRESUMABLY REQUIRE A GUARANTEE FROM HMG THAT THOSE NOT SETTLED ELSEWHERE WITHIN A CERTAIN PERIOD WOULD BE ACCEPTED IN BRITAIN (AND A VISIT TO SHANGHAI BY A MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY).
 - (II) TO ACCEPT THE REFUSAL AND WORK TOWARDS A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION WHEN THE SHIP REACHES JAPAN.

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4. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MASTER OF THE RUDD BANK FOR HIS ASSESSMENT BUT WILL KEEP TRYING AND LET YOU KNOW IF WE SUCCEED.

5. GRATEFUL INSTRUCTIONS.

GEORGE

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