

GR 400
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 151100Z
FM PEKING 150922Z SEP 82
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 559 OF 15 SEPTEMBER
INFO PRIORITY HONG KONG (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT.

1. I CALLED ON VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ZHANG WENJIN ON 15 SEPTEMBER AND TOLD HIM THAT ALTHOUGH WE WERE IN GENERAL PLEASED WITH THE PROGRAMME WE WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT A CALL ON SECRETARY-GENERAL HU YAOBANG HAD NOT BEEN ARRANGED. WE WERE ALSO DISAPPOINTED THAT SO FAR ONLY ONE CALL HAD BEEN ARRANGED ON DENG. THE PRIME MINISTER, WHOM I WOULD BE SEEING THIS WEEKEND IN TOKYO, ATTACHED THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO A SECOND CALL ON DENG. AS I HAD EXPLAINED TO VICE MINISTER QIAN ON 2 SEPTEMBER, SHE WOULD BE DISCUSSING A MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE, THAT OF HONG KONG, AND MEETINGS BETWEEN A BRITISH PRIME MINISTER IN OFFICE AND DENG WERE EXTREMELY RARE. IT WOULD BE MOST IMPORTANT FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE DISCUSSIONS THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO REFLECT ON WHAT HAD BEEN SAID AT THE FIRST MEETING AND THEN TO MEET AGAIN HOWEVER BRIEFLY. THIS DID NOT IN ANY WAY UNDER-ESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TALKS WITH PREMIER ZHAO, WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO AND IN WHICH I THOUGHT IT LIKELY SHE WOULD WISH TO BROACH THE HONG KONG QUESTION IN THE SECOND ROUND.

2. ZHANG SAID THEY WERE AWARE OF OUR WISHES AND HAD MADE EFFORTS TO SATISFY THEM. UNFORTUNATELY HU WOULD NOT BE IN PEKING AT THE TIME AND HAD A VERY TIGHT PROGRAMME. IN THE CASE OF DENG, AS WE WOULD KNOW, THE CHINESE USUAL PRACTICE WAS THAT DENG HAD ONLY ONE MEETING WITH IMPORTANT GUESTS. HE WOULD BE, OF COURSE, FULLY INFORMED BEFOREHAND OF WHAT HAD GONE ON IN THE TALKS WITH ZHAO.

3. I SAID THAT WE WERE AWARE THAT WHAT WE WERE ASKING WAS SPECIAL, BUT THE OCCASION WAS SPECIAL. ZHANG SAID THAT 'SO FAR IT HAD NOT BEEN VERY EASY TO ARRANGE IN ADVANCE' A SECOND MEETING WITH DENG. WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A SECOND MEETING WOULD DEPEND ON THE COURSE OF THE TALKS. MAYBE SOME NEW ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE DURING THE VISIT. HE UNDERTOOK TO CONVEY OUR LATEST REQUEST.

4. THIS IS ALMOST CERTAINLY AS MUCH AS WE WILL GET AT THIS STAGE. I THINK WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS AND THE CHINESE HAVE CERTAINLY

/HAD

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HAD BORNE IN UPON THEM THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO TWO MEETINGS.
IT SEEMS TO ME AN EVEN CHANCE THAT WE MIGHT GET SOME SHORT
SECOND MEETING, BUT A GREAT DEAL WILL DEPEND ON THE ATMOSPHERE AND
THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS, AS VIEWED FROM THE CHINESE SIDE.

CRADOCK

LIMITED
FRD
HKGD
MR GIFFARD
MR DONALD

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