

GA PSE

0732 2/13

IMMEDIATE

HO/FO 018/13

OO F C O DESKBY 130830Z

No 10 Downing St

GRS 400

IMMEDIATE

MR COLES

DEDIP
CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY 130830Z

FM HONG KONG 130650Z SEPTEMBER 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1035 OF 13 SEPTEMBER

IMMEDIATE

Mr 13/9
h-2

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR DONALD
FROM GOVERNOR

DESKBY

DURING MY ABSENCE IN LONDON A CHINESE NEWSPAPER OF NO GREAT STANDING PRINTED A SUGGESTION BY A LECTURER AT THE POLYTECHNIC THAT I HAD BEEN APPOINTED HERE MAINLY TO SETTLE THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE AND WOULD THEN BE SUCCEEDED BY SIR JACK CATER. THIS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE PASSED WITHOUT NOTICE BUT IT WAS PICKED UP BY "THE GIST" A PRINTED DAILY REVIEW OF THE CHINESE PRESS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES AND PROMINENTLY HEADLINED (IN A SPECIAL BOX) "SIR EDWARD TO BE SUCCEEDED BY SIR JACK" ON THE SAME PAGE AS SUMMARIES OF PRESS COMMENT ON OUR MISSION TO LONDON LAST WEEK.

2. THIS IN TURN MIGHT HAVE BEEN OF LIMITED CONSEQUENCE BUT AS YOU KNOW SIR JACK CATER WILL BE AMONG THOSE RECEIVED BY THE PRIME MINISTER TOMORROW. SINCE "THE GIST" IS WIDELY DISTRIBUTED HERE THE HONG KONG RUMOUR FACTORY WILL NOW WORK OVERTIME IF THIS CALL IS GIVEN ANY SPECIAL PROMINENCE (NOT TO MENTION THE RESENTMENT BY OTHER SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS HERE).

3. IT WILL THEREFORE BE IMPORTANT TO AVOID ANY IMPRESSION THAT SIR JACK CATER IS BEING GIVEN ANY SPECIAL STANDING OR BEING RECEIVED "AD PERSONAM". WHEN THE NEWS LEAKS (AS I AM SURE IT WILL) I SUGGEST NO 10 SHOULD RESPOND TO ENQUIRIES BY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE

"THE PRIME MINISTER WAS RECEIVING SOME HONG KONG PERSONALITIES AND AS A MATTER OF COURTESY HAD INVITED SIR JACK CATER AS HONG KONG COMMISSIONER TO ACCOMPANY THEM".

4. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD LET US KNOW WHAT LINE NO 10 PROPOSE TO TAKE IN CASE OF ENQUIRIES HERE. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHOW JOHN COLES THIS TELEGRAM.

YOUDE

NNNN