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OO PEKING

GRS 390

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FM FCO 011800Z OCT 82

TO IMMEDIATE PEKING (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

TELEGRAM NUMBER 466 OF 1 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR

YOUR TELSNOs 610, 611 AND 614 AND HONG KONG TELNO 1105:

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

1. THANK YOU FOR YOUR AND THE GOVERNOR'S HELPFUL COMMENTS. THESE TELEGRAMS WERE DISCUSSED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY.
2. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF CONTINUING NERVOUSNESS IN HONG KONG, THE PRIME MINISTER SEES ADVANTAGE IN YOUR MAKING CONTACT WITH THE CHINESE VERY SOON AND BEFORE THE GOVERNOR MAKES HIS LEGCO SPEECH ON 6 OCTOBER. THIS WOULD ENABLE HIM TO SAY THAT PRELIMINARY TALKS HAD BEGUN. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE TAKE EARLY ACTION WITH THE MFA AS PROPOSED IN YOUR TELNO 611 AS AMENDED BY THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 5 OF HONG KONG TELNO 1105.
3. AT YOUR FIRST CONTACT WITH ZHANG WENJIN, WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO AVOID ACCEPTING ANY OTHER BASIS FOR THE TALKS THAN THE AGREED STATEMENT, TO ENABLE US TO GET INTO TALKS OF SUBSTANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU SHOULD TRY TO COMBINE DISCUSSION OF THE MODALITIES WITH SOME PROPOSALS ON HOW THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE MIGHT BE HANDLED. YOUR POINT ABOUT THE NEED TO AVOID ACCEPTING ANY CHINESE PRECONDITION ON THE DISCUSSION OF SOVEREIGNTY IS FULLY TAKEN. YOU SHOULD REFER BACK FOR INSTRUCTIONS IF THE CHINESE INSIST ON THIS, BUT IN ARGUING AGAINST THEM YOU COULD TAKE THE LINE THAT THE AGREED STATEMENT HAS ALREADY REFERRED TO THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES AND THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TALKS IS THE COMMON AIM OF MAINTAINING STABILITY AND PROSPERITY. THEREFORE, THE TALKS SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF ADMINISTRATION AND ITS CONTINUITY.
4. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND THE AIM FOR PUBLICITY ON THE FIRST CONTACT SHOULD BE TO FOLLOW THE FORMULATION PROPOSED IN

Prime Minister

This was sent following your meeting on Friday - and after the telegram from Sir Percy Cuddeback which is attached. I think we can now wait to see how he gets on.

A.J.C. 4/10.

mt

/SENTENCES

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SENTENCES 3 AND 4 OF PARAGRAPH 4 OF YOUR TELNO 614.

5. ARISING FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING, THE THINKING NOW IS THAT ONCE THE PRELIMINARY TALKS HAVE ESTABLISHED THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE DISCUSSIONS, THE GOVERNOR SHOULD PARTICIPATE AT THE OPENING TALK ON SUBSTANCE AND THAT HE SHOULD TAKE PART FROM TIME TO TIME ACCOMPANIED BY EXPERTS FROM HONG KONG AS NECESSARY (CHINESE AS WELL AS BRITISH). AS THE TALKS PROGRESS IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO INVOLVE A MINISTER OR SPECIAL EMISSARY, BUT WE WILL NEED TO SEE THE OUTCOME OF THE OPENING MOVES WITH THE CHINESE BEFORE DECISIONS ARE TAKEN.

PYM

LIMITED

HD/HK & GD

HD/FED

PS

PS/LORD BELSTEAD

PS/PUS

MR GIFFARD

MR DONALD

2

DEDIPSECRET

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DESADV FCO 011600Z  
FM PEKING 011315Z OCT  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELNO 614 OF 1 OCTOBER  
RPTD INFO HONG KONG (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR).

ms

PERSONAL FOR DONALD

HONG KONG TELNO 1105: FUTURE OF HONG KONG

1. I ENTIRELY TAKE THE POINT ABOUT THE NEED FOR HONG KONG TO BE SEEN TO BE INVOLVED AND THIS IS I THINK EXPRESSED IN THE AGREED PAPER FROM WHICH I HAVE BEEN DRAWING. IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT I THINK IT WISE TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE CHINESE AT THIS STAGE THAT PEOPLE FROM HONG KONG WILL PARTICIPATE; THIS OF COURSE WOULD INCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNOR COMING AT AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT.

at the beginning of the official talks,

2. I HAD ALSO ENVISAGED, THOUGH I THOUGHT IT UNNECESSARY TO MENTION AT THIS STAGE, A CAREFULLY WORDED PRESS STATEMENT WHEN AGREEMENT TO TALKS WAS OBTAINED, WHICH WOULD BRING OUT FULLY THE EXTENT OF HONG KONG INVOLVEMENT.

3. I DO NOT KNOW IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE FIRST CONTACT APPEAR TO BE THE START OF TALKS. IF WE DID, WOULD IT NOT LEAD TO PEOPLE IN HONG KONG ASKING WHY THERE WAS NO HONG KONG INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIRST MEETING? THERE WOULD ALSO BE THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CHINESE LETTING IT BE KNOWN THAT FORMAL TALKS HAD NOT ACTUALLY BEGUN.

4. I AM ALSO STRONGLY AGAINST STARTING THE HABIT OF ANNOUNCING THE EXACT DATE OR INDEED OTHER DETAILS OF MEETINGS, WHICH WILL PUT THE SPOTLIGHT TOO CLOSELY ON THEM. IT WOULD ALSO BE DETERMINING IF LONG INTERVALS BETWEEN MEETINGS WERE TO OCCUR AND BECOME KNOWN. IF HOWEVER PUBLICITY IS THOUGHT ESSENTIAL AT THIS STAGE, PERHAPS THE BEST THAT COULD BE SAID WOULD BE THAT MEETINGS IN PEKING TO FOLLOW UP MRS THATCHER'S VISIT HAD BEGUN. AN ASSURANCE COULD BE GIVEN THAT HONG KONG WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SERIES OF MEETINGS, AND THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, LED BY THE GOVERNOR, WOULD BE CLOSELY INVOLVED AT ALL STAGES. BUT IF SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT WERE MADE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO AVOID REVEALING THAT THE REAL TALKS HAD NOT YET BEGUN.

We will consider on Monday

CRADOCK  
UNITED  
NATIONALS  
OFFICE  
NO (PUS)  
PS  
PS (LORD) BENSTEAD

MR JIFFARD  
MR DONALD

COPIES TO:  
MR COLES,  
1010 DOWNING STREET