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FM HONG KONG 190650Z OCTOBER 82
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1193 OF 19 OCTOBER
INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING

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YOUR TELNO 856: FUTURE OF HONG KONG

WE CERTAINLY NEED TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO GET IT ACROSS TO THE CHINESE THAT THEIR PLAN WOULD NOT WORK AND THAT BRITISH ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE NEEDED FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. BUT I HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT ANY KIND OF BLANKET OPERATION, AT ANY RATE AT THIS STAGE. THERE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT RISKS IN SEEKING TO INVOLVE FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS EXCEPT ON A VERY SELECTIVE BASIS (SEE PARA 2 BELOW). SOME OF OUR PARTNERS WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE SYMPATHETIC TO OUR POINT OF VIEW, AND WE COULD NOT BE SURE THAT ANYTHING WHICH THEY SAID TO THE CHINESE WOULD BE HELPFUL.

2. AS SEEN FROM HERE, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO THINK IN TERMS OF A MORE CLOSELY TARGETTED OPERATION, AIMED AT THOSE LIKELY TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP, AND OCCUPYING POSITIONS WHICH WILL DISPOSE THE CHINESE TO LISTEN TO WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY. THESE WILL MAINLY BE EITHER:

A. PROMINENT FOREIGN POLITICIANS WHO CURRENTLY HOLD, OR HAVE PREVIOUSLY HELD, SENIOR GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:

B: SENIOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESSMEN: OR

C. LEADING PERSONALITIES IN THE LOCAL CHINESE COMMUNITY.

3. THE USE OF SUCH PEOPLE WILL ONLY BE EFFECTIVE WHEN THEY HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO CHINSE LEADERS IN PEKING. THE USE OF SECONDARY INTERMEDIARIES WOULD BE RISKY. WE NEED THEREFORE TO DEVISE A SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFYING VISITORS TO CHINA IN CATEGORIES (A) AND (B) ABOVE AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE. THE AMBASSADOR WILL NO DOUBT LEARN OF FORTHCOMING VISITS BY PROMINENT FIGURES, OF OF MINISTERIAL AND SENIOR BUSINESS VISITORS. WE MAY LEARN OF OTHERS, AND IN THE CASE OF AMERICANS, COULD ASK THE U S CONSUL-GENERAL TO KEEP US INFORMED. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THE AMBASSADOR'S VIEW AS TO WHETHER THERE ARE ANY OTHER FOREIGN VISITORS WITH INFLUENCE ON THE CHINESE WHO PASS THROUGH HONG KONG ON WHOSE PLANS IT WOULD BE WORTH SEEKING THE HELP OF COMMONWEALTH OR CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVES HERE.

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4. IN THE CASE OF MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURES (E G FOREIGN MINISTERS OR PEOPLE OF THE STATURE OF KISSINGER) IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS WHETHER BRIEFING WOULD BE WORTHWHILE AND, IF SO, WHERE IT WOULD BE BEST BE GIVEN. MANY BUSINESS VISITORS TO CHINA PASS THROUGH HONG KONG AND, GIVEN SUFFICIENT NOTICE AND DEPENDING ON THEIR IMPORTANCE, I, THE CS, FS OR THE PA COULD SEE THEM. WE ARE ALSO BEST PLACED TO BRIEF LOCAL CHINESE.

5. IN EACH CASE IT WILL BE VERY IMPORTANT TO GET THE MESSAGE RIGHT. MY RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT SHOULD BE SAID FOLLOW.

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