

GR 240  
SECRET

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FM PEKING 220300Z OCT 82  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELNO 680 OF 22 OCTOBER  
INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR).

MY TELNO 672: FUTURE OF HONG KONG

1. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT ZHANG NOW AGREES THAT WE MAY MOVE ON TO SUBSTANTIVE TALKS, WE SHOULD BE CONSIDERING WHEN WE SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE FIRST ROUND AND WHAT FORM IT SHOULD TAKE.
2. THE GOVERNOR MAY WISH TO ATTEND THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING AND I NOTE FROM HIS TELNO 1141 TO YOU THAT HE WILL HAVE THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF KENT IN HONG KONG FROM 25 OCTOBER TO 2 NOVEMBER. THAT GIVES US 4 NOVEMBER AS THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE FIXTURE.
3. MY PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT WE SHOULD PROPOSE A FULL DAY OF TALKS COMPRISING A MORNING SESSION AND AN AFTERNOON SESSION: ALSO A LUNCH (IT COULD BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE TO HAVE SOME 'INFORMAL' CONTACT).
4. WE SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER THE MATTER OF PUBLICITY FOR THIS ROUND. THE GOVERNOR'S ATTENDANCE WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID PRESS ATTENTION, AND HE MAY INDEED REGARD A MEASURE OF PUBLICITY AS USEFUL TO CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG. BUT I BELIEVE WE SHOULD AVOID ANY COMMENT ON THE FORM OR CONTENT OF THE TALKS. NOR WOULD IT BE WISE TO REVEAL THAT THIS WILL BE THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE ROUND. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT SUBSTANCE IS DISCUSSED ONLY IN PUBLICISED MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE GOVERNOR. WE SHOULD SIMPLY SAY THAT THE TALKS ARE CONTINUING AND THAT THE GOVERNOR IS ATTENDING THIS PARTICULAR ROUND.

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED  
 HD/HKGD  
 HD/FED  
 HD/PLANNING STAFF  
 HD/PUSD  
 PS  
 PS/LORD BELSTEAD  
 PS/PUS  
 MR GIFFARD  
 MR DONALD

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