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PP PEKING

PP TOKYO

GRS 364

SECRET

FM FCO 251130Z OCT 82

TO PRIORITY PEKING

TELEGRAM NUMBER 512 OF 25 OCTOBER

AND TO HONG KONG (PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR)

WASHINGTON (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

TOKYO (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

1. IN PARALLEL WITH THE TALKS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WITH THE CHINESE, WE ARE CONSIDERING WAYS OF PUTTING OVER TO THE CHINESE LEADERS IDEA SUPPORTING OUR POINT OF VIEW AND THAT OF HONG KONG.

2. ONE WAY OF ACHIEVING THIS IS BY ENLISTING THE HELP OF SENIOR FIGURES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES BOTH IN THE POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS. WE DO NOT ENVISAGE A BLANKET OPERATION. WE NEED TO BE SELECTIVE, CHOOSING PEOPLE LIKELY TO BE BOTH SYMPATHETIC TO OUR POINT OF VIEW, ABLE TO CONVEY OUR MESSAGE RELIABLY AND LIKELY TO HAVE INFLUENCE WITH THE CHINESE. OBVIOUSLY THIS LIMITS THE FIELD.

3. WE PROPOSE TO START BY IDENTIFYING SENIOR FIGURES WHO ARE LIKELY TO VISIT CHINA IN THE NEAR FUTURE (OVER THE NEXT 6 MONTHS). GRATEFUL IF YOU AND OTHER ADDRESSEES WOULD REPORT POTENTIAL VISITORS WHEN THEY BECOME KNOWN. YOU SHOULD NOT (NOT):

A. CONDUCT SPECIFIC ENQUIRIES WHICH MIGHT SUGGEST THAT WE WERE PLANNING A CAMPAIGN:

B. UNDERTAKE ANY BRIEFING OF VISITORS AT THIS STAGE.

WE WOULD OBTAIN MINISTERIAL APPROVAL FOR THE USE OF ANY LIKELY CANDIDATES AND ISSUE SEPARATE TAILOR-MADE INSTRUCTIONS FOR BRIEFING IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE.

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CATEGORIES OF VISITORS.

4. WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ONLY ON SENIOR PERSONALITIES LIKELY TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE TOP CHINESE LEADERSHIP. THIS COULD INCLUDE GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, MAJOR INDUSTRIALISTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS.

AMERICANS.

5. SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS ARE BEING SENT TO WASHINGTON ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US GOVERNMENT BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW OF OTHER POSSIBLE VISITORS FROM THE US.

JAPANESE.

6. HMA TOKYO SHOULD NOTE THAT MINISTERS AT THIS STAGE DO NOT (NOT) FAVOUR THE USE OF JAPANESE VISITORS FOR THIS PURPOSE. HOWEVER TOKYO COULD LEARN OF VISITORS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WHO ARE INTENDING TO TRANSIT JAPAN ON THE WAY TO CHINA.

CHINESE VISITORS ABROAD.

7. YOU SHOULD ALSO REPORT ON LIKELY VISITS OF SENIOR CHINESE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHOSE GOVERNMENTS WE MIGHT APPROACH TO HELP IN PUTTING OUR POINT OF VIEW.

PYM

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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PS/LORD BELSTEAD
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