

Hong Kong

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FM HONG KONG 060445Z NOV 82
TO ROUTINE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1283 OF 6 NOVEMBER
INFO HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE LONDON, PEKING

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: PRESS COVERAGE

THE COMMUNIST WEN WEI PO ON 6 NOVEMBER PUBLISHED A FRONT PAGE REPORT ON THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO CHINA AND HONG KONG. THE ARTICLE CONCENTRATED ON THE CRITICAL REMARKS MADE BY MR. HEALEY AND DR. OWEN. IT ALSO REPORTED EXTENSIVELY A SPEECH BY SIR PAUL BRYAN, HIGHLIGHTING HIS REMARKS ABOUT CHINA'S CONTRIBUTION TO HONG KONG'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS.

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FM HONG KONG 040950Z NOVEMBER 82
TO PRIORITY F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1272 OF 04 NOVEMBER
INFO PRIORITY PEKING

MY TELNO 1266: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: PRESS COMMENT

1. TODAY'S LEFT-WING WEN WEI PAO CARRIES THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF SPECIAL ARTICLES BY LI ZISONG, THE PAPER'S MANAGING EDITOR (PARA 7 OF T U R REFERS). THE SERIES IS DEVELOPING INTO A FAIRLY SUBTLE CAMPAIGN TO SHAME LOCAL CHINESE INTO SUPPORT FOR THE RECOVERY OF SOVEREIGNTY BY APPEALING TO THEIR PATRIOTISM.

2. THE FIRST ARTICLE (13 OCTOBER) CHARACTERISED THE 19TH CENTURY 'UNEQUAL TREATIES' AS ACTS OF NATIONAL BETRAYAL, BUT LOOKED FORWARD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE BASED ON CHINA'S CONTINUED EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS HONG KONG. THE SECOND (30 OCTOBER) LISTED THE VARIOUS CONCESSIONS MADE TO THE WESTERN POWERS DURING LI HUNG CHANG'S ASCENDENCY. IN FAILING TO PUT THE INTERESTS OF CHINA FIRST LI HAD COMMITTED THE ULTIMATE BETRAYAL. TODAY'S ARTICLE FIRMLY PLACES NATIONAL FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE ABOVE INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS: WITHOUT THE FORMER, THE LATTER CANNOT EXIST. /

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FM HONG KONG 070840Z OCT 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1124 OF 7 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING

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FUTURE OF HONG KONG: COMMUNIST PRESS COMMENT.

OF THE TWO MAIN COMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS, WEN WEI PO MAKES THE PASSAGE IN MY SPEECH RELATING TO THE FUTURE AND THE START OF TALKS ITS FRONT PAGE LEAD. THE TA KUNG PAO COVERS ONLY THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SECTIONS OF THE SPEECH ON AN INSIDE PAGE.

2. THE WEN WEI PO ON 6 OCTOBER PUBLISHED ANOTHER EDITORIAL CRITICAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS ABOUT THE TREATIES. THE EDITORIAL, CAST IN MORE POLEMICAL LANGUAGE THAN THE PREVIOUS ONES, SOUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REFERENCES TO THE TREATIES WERE INCONSISTENT WITH RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OPPOSITION TO SOVIET HEGEMONISM AND SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF THE UN CHARTER. THE EDITORIAL ALSO ATTACKED THE NOTION THAT HONG KONG'S VALUE TO CHINA IN MONEY TERMS WAS THE DOMINANT CONSIDERATION. CHINA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FROM HONG KONG WERE OBTAINED THROUGH THE SALE OF MUCH NEEDED GOODS, NOT FOR NOTHING. WHERE WOULD HONG KONG BE WITHOUT THIS TRADE? TO THINK ONLY OF MONEY WOULD BE TO UNDERESTIMATE THE FEELINGS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE.

3. THE EDITORIAL SAID THAT HISTORY HAD CONDEMNED AS CRIMINALS THOSE LIKE THE EMPEROR TAO KUANG AND HIS MINISTER LI HUNGCHANG WHO HAD SOLD CHINA TO THE IMPERIALISTS. IT QUOTED ZHAO ZIYANG'S REMARKS AT THE WELCOMING BANQUET ABOUT PROBLEMS LEFT OVER FROM HISTORY NOT BEING DIFFICULT TO SOLVE ON THE BASIS OF A LONG TERM STRATEGIC POINT OF VIEW AND OF THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. REFERENCES TO THE TREATIES WERE A VIOLATION OF CHINA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AS WELL AS AN

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INSULT TO THE DIGNITY OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE. SUCH REFERENCES WOULD NOT (NOT) HAVE A GOOD EFFECT ON THE TALKS. PEKING'S ATTITUDE WAS REASONABLE. IT WAS WILLING TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS BY PEACEFUL MEANS.

4. THE WEN WEI PO ON 7 OCTOBER ALSO PUBLISHED ON ITS FRONT PAGE A REUTERS REPORT OF A SPEECH TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY THE PANAMANIAN VICE PRESIDENT SAYING THAT BRITAIN SHOULD RESTORE GIBRALTAR, THE FALKLANDS AND HONG KONG TO SPAIN, ARGENTINA AND CHINA RESPECTIVELY.

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