

GR 200

**RESTRICTED**

RESTRICTED  
FM HONG KONG 180640Z NOV 82  
TO PRIORITY FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1330 OF 18 NOVEMBER  
INFO PRIORITY PEKING  
INFO ROUTINE MANILA

*N. a.*  
*cr.*  
" "

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: PRESS COVERAGE.

1. THE WEN WEI PO (COMMUNIST) ON 18 NOVEMBER PUBLISHED ON ITS FRONT PAGE A REUTERS REPORT FROM MANILA OF REMARKS MADE BY THE MAYOR OF GUANGZHOU LIANG LINGGUANG, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A REPORTER FROM 'THE BULLETIN' AT THE END OF A FRIENDSHIP VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES. THE REPORT WAS HEADLINED: 'HONG KONG WILL RETAIN ITS FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AFTER CHINA HAS RECOVERED SOVEREIGNTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL'. MAYOR LIANG REPORTEDLY SAID THAT CHINA WOULD REGAIN BOTH SOVEREIGNTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OVER HONG KONG AND WOULD MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY. THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE, ALTHOUGH (LOCAL) CHINESE WOULD ASSUME CONTROL. IT WAS THE POLICY OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT THAT HONG KONG SHOULD RETAIN ITS FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.
2. THE REPORT APPEARED IN A NUMBER OF NON-COMMUNIST CHINESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS AND THE SMALL CIRCULATION LEFT-WING CHING PO BUT WAS NOT (NOT) CARRIED IN THE OTHER MAJOR COMMUNIST DAILY, THE TA KUNG PAO. (THIS MAY BE BECAUSE THE CHIEF EDITOR OF THE WEN WEI PO WAS A MEMBER OF MAYOR LIANG'S DELEGATION). THE REUTERS DESPATCH AS RECEIVED HERE DID NOT (NOT) INCLUDE THE PHRASE ABOUT LOCAL CHINESE ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY.
3. GRATEFUL IF MANILA WOULD TELEGRAPH FULL TEXT OF PASSAGES IN 'THE BULLETIN' INTERVIEW RELATING TO HONG KONG.

YOUDE

**FUTURE OF HONG KONG**

LIMITED

HD/HK & GD  
HD/FED  
ED/PLANNING STAFF  
ED/PUSD  
PS  
PS/LORD BELSTEAD  
PS/PUS  
MR GIFFARD  
MR DONALD

COPIES TO

SIR I SINCLAIR	LEGAL ADVISER
MR ROBERTS	NEWS D
MR COLES	NO 10 DOWNING STREET
MR MARTIN	ASSESSMENTS STAFF CABINET OFFICE

**THIS TELEGRAM  
WAS NOT  
ADVANCED**

**RESTRICTED**