

GRS 275

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FM HONG KONG 200442Z NOVEMBER 82

TO ROUTINE F C O

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1350 OF 20 NOVEMBER

INFO MANILA BANGKOK SINGAPORE PEKING

MY TELNO 1330 (NOT TO ALL): MEASURES TO ATTRACT HONG KONG INVESTMENT.

1. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS AND INDEPENDENT CHINESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS HERE HAVE REPORTED PROMINENTLY RECENT DECISIONS BY PRESIDENT MARCOS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTORS BY RELAXING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ACQUIRING RESIDENT STATUS. THE MEASURES REPORTEDLY INCLUDE THE SETTING UP OF A SPECIAL OFFICE TO HELP FOREIGN INVESTORS AND DROPPING THE REQUIREMENT TO INVEST IN DEPRESSED AREAS. AN AFP REPORT QUOTING PRESIDENT MARCOS AS SAYING SPECIFICALLY THAT THESE MEASURES WERE DESIGNED TO ATTRACT HONG KONG BUSINESSMEN WAS WIDELY CARRIED.

2. THE PRESS HERE HAVE ALSO CARRIED REPORTS THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT ARE CONSIDERING SIMILAR MEASURES. THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE THAI BOARD OF INVESTMENT WHO IS CURRENTLY VISITING HONG KONG. THE WAH KUI YAT PO (INDEPENDENT) ON 20 NOVEMBER REPORTED HIM AS SAYING THAT A SERIES OF MEASURES WERE BEING DRAWN UP INCLUDING THE RIGHT OF RESIDENCE, TAX HOLIDAYS, AND THE RIGHT TO BUY LAND.

3. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF INFORMATION ADDRESSEES COULD MONITOR AND REPORT ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENTS.

YOUDE

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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