

CONFIDENTIAL

GR 180
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FM PEKING 170920Z JAN 83
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELNO 38 OF 18 JANUARY
RPTD INFO PRIORITY HONG KONG.

MIPT: FUTURE OF HONG KONG

1. THIS WAS A USEFUL REMINDER AT A SENIOR LEVEL OF THE CONCERN WE FEEL AT THE ABSENCE OF A REPLY, AND WILL HAVE INCREASED PRESSURE ON THE CHINESE FOR SOME RESPONSE. AFTER ATTEMPTING TO LAUGH THE MATTER OFF, THEY BECAME DISTINCTLY DEFENSIVE AND DID NOT SEEK TO MOVE INTO ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON HONG KONG OR TO DENY THAT DISCUSSIONS VIA DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WERE TO BE PERSUED. NONETHELESS, THE SITUATION IS ^{NOT?} VERY SATISFACTORY.

2. AT A DINNER FOR MR JENKIN ON 15 JANUARY I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A CHAT WITH WANG BENZUO AND ASKED WHEN WE COULD EXPECT A REPLY. HE SAID "BEFORE LONG" AND LATER TOLD CGE THAT THE NEW VICE-FOREIGN MINISTER, YAO GUANG, WAS SLOWLY READING HIMSELF INTO HIS NEW SUBJECTS. THIS TENDS TO BEAR OUT THE SUGGESTION FROM WAN LI THAT RESHUFFLES AND ABSENCES OF LEADERS HAVE AT LEAST HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE HOLD UP.

3. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS I SUGGEST MY NEXT STEP SHOULD BE TO SEEK AN INTERVIEW WITH YAO GUANG.

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

HD/HK/2D

HD/FED

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/PUSD

PS - PS/MR HURD

PS/LORD BELSTEAD

PS/PUS

MR GIFFARD

MR DONALD

SIR J BULLARD

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

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