

GRS 250
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FROM PEKING 090900Z FEB 83

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TO PRIORITY FCC

TELEGRAM NUMBER 136 OF 9/2/83

REPEATED FOR INFO TO PRIORITY HONG KONG

A. & C. $\frac{10}{2}$
h.a.

FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

POSSIBLE VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVE OF HONG KONG AND SHAGHAI BANK.

1. MICHAEL LANGLEY, THE PEKING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANK, CALLED TODAY TO SEEK ADVICE ON A POSSIBLE VISIT BY HIS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, HAMMOND, TO PEKING AT THE END OF APRIL, WITH THE OBJECT OF CALLING UPON LIAO CHENGZHI. THOUGH HE HAD LITTLE INFORMATION ON WHAT WAS INTENDED, HE ASSUMED THE SUBJECT WAS THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. PRELIMINARY CONTACTS SUGGESTED SUCH A VISIT COULD BE ARRANGED. BUT HE HIMSELF WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER IT WAS A GOOD IDEA.

2. I SAID A DECISION MUST BE FOR THE BANK TO MAKE. MY IMMEDIATE PERSONAL REACTION WAS THAT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD THING IN THAT IT WOULD ALLOW LIAO TO MEET SOMEONE WHO WAS BOTH EXPERT AND MORE ROBUST THAN MOST OF THE VISITORS FROM HONG KONG. BUT I SHOULD LIKE TO REFLECT BEFORE GIVING HIM FIRM ADVICE.

3. I ASKED WHETHER THE CHINESE WOULD NOT PREFER TO SEE SANDBERG RATHER THAN HAMMOND. LANGLEY SAID THIS WAS HIS OWN VIEW BUT SANDBERG WAS RELUCTANT ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE WAS A MEMBER OF EXCO. I SAID THIS HAD NOT BEEN A BARRIER IN THE CASE OF VISITS BY EG NEWBIGGING.

4. GRATEFUL FOR COMMENTS. I HAVE PROMISED AN ANSWER BY 17 FEBRUARY.
CRADOCK [THIS TELEGRAM WAS NOT ADVANCED]

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

HD/HKGD

HD/FED

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/FUSD

PS

PS/LORD BELSTEAD PS/MR HURD

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