

Hong Kong

63

SECRET

GRS 170

SECRET

DESKBY 110900/110300Z

FROM PEKING 110205Z FEB 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 142 OF 11/2/83

REPEATED FOR INFO TO HONG KONG

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: CHINESE LEAKAGE

1. AFP HAVE ASKED US TO COMMENT ON A REMARK REPORTEDLY MADE BY WU XUEQIAN IN THE MARGINS OF A PRESS CONFERENCE LAST NIGHT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TALKS ON HONG KONG HAD SO FAR BEEN 'MERELY PROCEDURAL'. WE HAVE SAID NOTHING.

2. THIS IS A SERIOUS LEAKAGE WHICH WE SHALL NEED TO TAKE UP WITH THE CHINESE, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF YAO GUANG'S ASSURANCE ON 26 JANUARY THAT THEY WOULD NOT REVEAL THE (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) CONTENT OF TALKS, BUT ONLY CHINA'S GENERAL STAND. I SHOULD LIKE TO WAIT TO SEE HOW THIS IS REPORTED IN HONG KONG.

IF IT IS HEADLINE NEWS I MIGHT RECOMMEND THAT I SEEK A SPECIAL CALL ON YAO AFTER CHINESE NEW YEAR: OTHERWISE WE COULD PROBABLY WAIT FOR THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THE MATTER

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

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HD/FED

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/PUSD

PS

PS/LORD BELSTEAD

PS/PUS

MR GIFFARD

MR DONALD

SIR J BULLARD

PS/MR HURD

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