

GRS 280

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FROM PEKING 210700Z FEB 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 160 OF 21/2/83

AND TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

MY TEL NO 133: FUTURE OF HONG KONG

1. IN MY TUR I SAID THAT WE WERE EXPECTING A TRANSLATION OF THE SPEAKING NOTE USED BY YAO GUANG ON 9 FEBRUARY. IN THE EVENT A COPY IN CHINESE WAS SENT TO US, (COPY BY NEXT BAG). OUR TRANSLATION OF THE FULL TEXT FOLLOWS (SEMI-CLN) THE PROSE IS CLUMSY BUT SO IS THE ORIGINAL CHINESE.

2. BEGINS

WHEN PRIME MINISTER THATCHER VISITED CHINA THE LEADERS OF CHINA AND BRITAIN HELD THOROUGH-GOING TALKS ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG'S FUTURE AND AGREED TO CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSIONS AFTERWARDS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY ARE CLOSELY BOUND UP WITH THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG. HONG KONG IS A PART OF CHINESE TERRITORY WHICH MUST REVERT TO CHINA. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS OFFICIALLY INFORMED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT CHINA WILL RECOVER SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ENTIRE HONG KONG AREA IN 1997 (SEMI-CLN) THAT IS DEFINITE AND BEYOND QUESTION. CHINA'S POLICY TOWARDS THE SOLUTION OF THE HONG KONG QUESTION IS:- RECOVER SOVEREIGNTY AND MAINTAIN PROSPERITY. THE TWO ARE INSEPARABLE . FOR THE SAKE OF THE COMMON AIM OF MAINTAINING THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG THE DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN CAN ONLY CONSIST OF THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE RECOVERY OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG BY CHINA IN 1997, AND ON THE BASIS EXAMINATION OF HOW BEST TO HANDLE THE TRANSITIONAL WORK IN THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND 1997, AND HOW, FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH SIDES AFTER THE RECOVERY OF SOVEREIGNTY BY CHINA IN 1997. BRITAIN MIGHT COOPERATE WITH CHINA IN CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY AND STABILITY.

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/DISCUSSIONS

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DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG  
CAN ONLY BE CONDUCTED ON THE BASIS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THE  
ENTIRE HONG KONG AREA BE HANDED BACK TO CHINA IN 1997. AGREEMENT  
ON THIS KEY ISSUE MUST BE REACHED BEFORE DISCUSSIONS OF SPECIFIC  
ARRANGEMENTS CAN BEGIN. ONLY AT THAT TIME CAN CONSIDERATION BE  
GIVEN TO THE SETTING UP OF TEAMS BY BOTH SIDES FOR THE CONDUCT  
OF THE TALKS.

ENDS

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

HD/HKGD

HD/FED

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/FUSD

PS - PS / HRHURD

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  
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