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SECRET

GR 133

SECRET

FM HONG KONG 081025Z APR 83
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 430 OF 3 APRIL
INFO PRIORITY PEKING (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

YOUR TELNO 323: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: VISIT BY THE RT HON EDWARD HEATH MP.

1. I AGREE WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AMBASSADOR IN HIS TELNO 312. GIVEN THE ACCESS WHICH THE CHINESE LEADERS HAVE ACCORDED TO MR HEATH ON HIS VISITS TO PEKING (AS I RECALL, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SEEN BY DENG XIAOPING AND ALSO WAW MAO WHEN MAO WAS ALIVE), THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ATTACH MUCH WEIGHT TO WHAT HE SAYS AND THEY WILL PROBABLY SPEAK FULLY AND FRANKLY TO HIM.
2. AS REGARDS HIS VISIT TO HONG KONG IF MR HEATH WERE TO SPEAK HERE, EVEN PRIVATELY, OTHER THAN IN SUPPORT OF OUR POSITION IT WOULD CAUSE DISMAY AND CONFUSION, PARTICULARLY AMONG UNOFFICIALS. THIS ADDS TO THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF MR HEATH BEING GIVEN A DETAILED BRIEFING.

YOUDE

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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Mr Coles, No 10.

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FM PEKING 070813Z APR 83
 TO PRIORITY FCO
 TELNO 312 OF 7 APRIL
 RPTD INFO PRIORITY HONG KONG.

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YOUR TELNO 323: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: VISIT BY MR HEATH

1. I AGREE THAT THERE IS NO SENSE IN DECIDING NOW PRECISELY WHAT WE WOULD ASK MR HEATH TO SAY, SINCE IT WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY ON WHAT REPLY IS RECEIVED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE. BUT WHATEVER THE SITUATION IN MAY, HIS VISIT IS BOUND TO HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT HONG KONG DIMENSION. HE WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY SEE THE TOP LEADERS, PROBABLY INCLUDING DENG, AND THIS IS LIKELY TO PROVIDE US WITH OUR ONLY ACCESS AT THIS LEVEL IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE SHOULD MISS AN INVALUABLE OPPORTUNITY IF WE DID NOT MAKE FULL USE OF THE OCCASION TO DISCUSS HONG KONG. MOREOVER, THE CHINESE PROBABLY BELIEVE THAT MR HEATH IS FULLY IN TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION, AND IT WOULD BE POSITIVELY DAMAGING IF HE FAILED TO SPEAK IN THE RIGHT WAY. THE CHINESE WILL CERTAINLY RAISE HONG KONG, AS THEY DID IN 1982. CONSEQUENTLY, MY PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT MR HEATH MUST BE GIVEN A PRETTY DETAILED BRIEFING.

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FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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THIS TELEGRAM
 WAS NOT
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FM FCO 061029Z APR 83

TO PRIORITY HONG KONG

TELEGRAM NUMBER 323 OF 6 APRIL

AND TO PRIORITY PEKING (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

FCO TELNO 195 TO PEKING: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: VISIT BY RT HON EDWARD HEATH MP

1. THIS VISIT, WHICH WILL NO DOUBT INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH DENG AND/OR ZHAO, IS LIKELY TO COME AT AN INTERESTING TIME. NO 10'S INITIAL VIEW IS THAT, WHILE OBVIOUSLY MUCH WILL DEPEND ON THE SITUATION AT THE TIME, WE SHOULD PROVIDE MR HEATH WITH GENERAL GUIDANCE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE BUT NOT GIVE HIM A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. WE SHALL HAVE TO SUBMIT DETAILED ADVICE BY MID-MAY AT THE LATEST, IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS AND THE LIKELY CHINESE ATTITUDE TO THE VISIT. WE CAN EXPECT THEM TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO IT. THEY MAY WELL SEE MR HEATH AS A POTENTIAL CHANNEL AND TRY TO PASS A MESSAGE AS THEY DID IN APRIL 1982. WE SHALL SEEK YOUR VIEWS NEARER THE TIME. BUT YOUR PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS WOULD BE WELCOME NOW.

3. AS REPORTED IN MISS MARLES' TELELETTER OF 29 MARCH TO HIGGINSON, MR HEATH ALSO INTENDS TO VISIT HONG KONG. THE DATES GIVEN THERE FOR HONG KONG (27 TO 30 MAY) MAY BE ALTERED IF THE CHINA VISIT IS BROUGHT FORWARD AS MENTIONED IN TUR.

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FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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Mr Coles, No 10 DS.