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FM HONG KONG 150930Z APR 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 516 OF 15 APRIL 1983

INFO PRIORITY PEKING (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

YOUR TELNO 221 OF 12 APRIL AND PEKING'S TELNO 334 OF 13 APRIL.5
FUTURE OF HONG KONG: VISIT BY HAL MILLER MP

1. WHEN MILLER LEFT THE HKG SERVICE AND BEFORE HE ENTERED PARLIAMENT HE WORKED FOR CHA CHI MING OF CHINA DYEING WORKS LTD, A SUCCESSFUL SELF MADE EX-SHANGHAISE BUSINESSMAN IN TEXTILES, WITH INTERESTS IN NIGERIA AND SOME IN UK. WE BELIEVE THAT MILLER CONTINUES TO BE RETAINED IN SOME WAY BY CHA CHI MING, EITHER AS PART OF HIS MANAGEMENT TEAM OR AS A CONSULTANT. CHA ALSO HAS ASSOCIATIONS IN CHINA (INCLUDING ACCESS TO LIAO CHENGZHI) AND IS A VISITOR THERE. HE WAS THERE BEFORE ZHAO ZIYANG'S VISIT TO AFRICA: BECAUSE OF HIS NIGERIAN CONNECTION HE MAY HAVE SEEN ZHAO OR SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE MFA. HE KEEPS A VERY LOW PROFILE IN HONG KONG WHERE HE IS WELL REGARDED FOR HIS BUSINESS ACUMEN.

2. AS I RECALL THE INVITATION TO MILLER CAME THROUGH CHA CHI MING EARLY IN MARCH. IT SEEMS TO US QUITE POSSIBLE THAT MILLER MAY HAVE ASKED CHA TO USE HIS CHINESE CONNECTIONS TO SECURE AN INVITATION FOR HIM TO GO TO CHINA. ALTERNATIVELY CHA, WHO WE BELIEVE IS THE HONG KONG CONTACT REFERRED TO IN PARA 1 OF YOUR TELNO 221, MAY HAVE PRESSED MILLER'S CASE WITH THE CHINESE FOR HIS OWN REASONS, OR MAY INDEED, HAVE BEEN THE PRIME MOVER.

3. THE INVITATION TO MILLER PRECEDED THE PM'S MESSAGE. THE FACT THAT THE CHINESE EMBASSY BRIEFED MILLER ABOUT IT MAY BE PART OF A MOVE TO GET ITS EXISTENCE KNOWN: (MY TELNO 513) BUT I ACCEPT THAT IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE CHINESE HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE SOME USE OF HIM, WHATEVER THE ORIGIN OF THE INVITATION. (PEKING TELS NO 334 AND 338).

YOUDE

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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