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GPS 475

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FM HONG KONG 190935Z APR 83
TO ROUTINE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 533 OF 19 APRIL 1983
INFO ROUTINE PEKING

MY TELNO 493: VISIT TO HONG KONG BY MR ROLAND MOYLE MP:
HONG KONG ELECTORAL SYSTEM.

1. AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED IN TUR MR MOYLE REFERRED TO CHINESE STATEMENTS ABOUT HONG KONG PEOPLE GOVERNING HONG KONG AND SAID THAT THEIR ATTITUDE WAS NOT ENTIRELY CONSISTENT. QUOTE TO A SIMPLE PERSON LIKE MYSELF, FOR HONG KONG PEOPLE TO GOVERN HONG KONG REQUIRES EVERY PERSON OVER THE AGE OF 18 TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS FOR A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WHICH WOULD CONTROL THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONG KONG, FORMULATE ITS POLICIES AND PASS ITS LAWS. BUT IF YOU PUT THIS IDEA TO THE CHINESE IN PEKING THEY ARE NOT AT ALL ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT: IN FACT VERY MUCH THE REVERSE. ANY IDEAS ALONG THESE LINES ARE FIRMLY REBUFFED AS NOT BEING APPROPRIATE UNQUOTE.

2. MOYLE TOLD A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS HERE THAT GIVEN THE LABOUR PARTY'S TRADITIONAL INTEREST IN EXTENDING REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG, ONE OF HIS AIMS IN PEKING HAD BEEN TO SOUND OUT THE CHINESE IN ORDER TO DISCOVER WHETHER THEIR REACTION WAS AS NEGATIVE AS THE FCO AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD ALWAYS REPRESENTED IT AS BEING. HE HAD RAISED THE QUESTION AT THREE DIFFERENT LEVELS:

(A) WITH A JUNIOR OFFICIAL WHO HAD SAID THAT THERE WERE ONLY A FEW YEARS TO GO BEFORE 1997 SO WHY BOTHER TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM.

(B) WITH A MIDDLE RANKING OFFICIAL, WHO HAD TAKEN THE LINE THAT CHINESE AND WESTERN CONCEPTS OF DEMOCRACY WERE DIFFERENT: AND

(C) WITH ASSISTANT FOREIGN MINISTER ZHOU NAN WHO HAD SAID THAT THE EXTENSION OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE, AND THAT IF A FUTURE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WERE TO PURSUE THE IDEA IT WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS.

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/ 3. MOYLE

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3. MOYLE DREW THE CONCLUSION THAT A POPULARLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE CHINESE BUT THAT THIS DID NOT RULE OUT LESSER STEPS SUCH AS THE INDIRECT ELECTION OF SOME LEGCO MEMBERS OR THE TRANSFORMATION OF DISTRICT BOARDS INTO WHOLLY ELECTED BODIES.

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FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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HD/HKGD

HD/FED

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/PUSD

PS

PS/MR HURD

PS/LORD BELSTEAD

PS/PUS

SIR J BULLARD

MR GIFFARD

MR DONALD

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SIR I SINCLAIR LEGAL ADVISER

MR BURROWS LEGAL ADVISERS

MR ROBERTS NEWS D

MR MARTIN ASSESSMENTS STAFF

CABINET OFFICE

MR FLOWER PUSD

MR COLES, ~~NO 10~~ NO 10 DOWNING STREET

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FM HONG KONG 120740Z APR 83
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 493 OF 12 APRIL
INFO PRIORITY PEKING

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*Mr. Moyle's visit may lead
to the opportunity to raise Hong
Kong in the House.
A.C. 13/4*

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: PRESS CONFERENCE BY MR ROLAND MOYLE, MP.
MR ROLAND MOYLE, M.P., GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON 9 APRIL BEFORE
HIS DEPARTURE FROM HONG KONG. HIS REMARKS WERE GIVEN WIDESPREAD
AND PROMINENT COVERAGE BOTH IN THE ENGLISH AND CHINESE LANGUAGE
PRESS. (TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWS BY BAG TO HKGD).
THE MAIN POINTS MADE BY MR MOYLE ON THE FUTURE WERE AS FOLLOWS:
A) CHINA WAS SINCERE IN ITS INTENTION TO MAINTAIN HONG KONG'S
PROSPERITY AND STABILITY.
B) THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN COULD BE RECONCILED.
C) THE PRIME MINISTER HAD DWELT TOO MUCH ON THE VALIDITY OF THE
TREATIES. THE EMPHASIS IN FUTURE, SHOULD BE ON HONG KONG'S
ECONOMIC VALUE TO CHINA.
D) CHINESE LEADERS HAD LITTLE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT MADE HONG
KONG WORK.
E) THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WAS INSISTENT THAT SOVEREIGNTY WAS
NON-NEGOTIABLE.
F) CHINA'S SELF-RULE PROPOSITIONS DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

2. THERE HAVE SO FAR BEEN ONLY TWO EDITORIAL COMMENTS. THE
COMMUNIST TA KUNG PAO DESCRIBED MR MOYLE'S APPROACH AS PRAGMATIC
AND SENSIBLE AND SAID THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SINO-BRITISH
RELATIONS WOULD ONLY BE POSSIBLE IF THERE WAS AN EARLY SOLUTION
TO THE 1997 PROBLEM. THE FINANCIAL DAILY (INDEPENDENT) DREW
ATTENTION TO MR MOYLE'S POSITION AS DEPUTY SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS FOR THE LABOUR PARTY AND SAID THAT HIS REMARKS SHOULD
CARRY WEIGHT. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POINT IN MR MOYLE'S REMARKS
WAS THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN
BRITAIN AND CHINA SHOULD ENABLE DISPUTES OVER POLITICS, SOVEREIGNTY
AND THE TREATIES GOVERNING HONG KONG TO BE FORGOTTEN. THIS WOULD
PUT DIPLOMATIC TALKS ON THE RIGHT TRACK FOR A COMPROMISE SOLUTION.
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