

SECRET

GPS 175

mt

SECRET

DESKBY 100900Z

FM HONG KONG 100742Z MAY 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 650 OF 10 MAY 1983

INFO PRIORITY PEKING (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

PEKING TELSNOs 416 TO 418: FUTURE OF HONG KONG

1. I HAVE TOLD SIR S.Y. CHUNG AND OTHER EXCO UNOFFICIALS THAT THE REPLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE WAS DELIVERED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. AT TOMORROW'S MEETING OF EXCO I PROPOSE TO GIVE THEM A SUMMARY OF THE REPLY AND TO SAY THAT I WOULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO SHOW THEM THE TEXT AS SOON AS A PROPER TRANSLATION HAS BEEN PREPARED AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IT.

2. MEMBERS ARE BOUND TO ASK ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REPLY AND THE PROSPECTS FOR GETTING SUBSTANTIVE TALKS STARTED SOON. IN GIVING A PRELIMINARY VIEW I PROPOSE TO DRAW ON PEKING TELNO 418 BUT TO STRESS THAT A FULL ASSESSMENT WOULD HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE MESSAGE HAD BEEN STUDIED IN LONDON.

YOUDE

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

HD/HKGD

HD/FED

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/FUSD

PS

PS/MR HURD

PS/LORD BELSTEAD

PS/FUS

SIR J BULLARD

MR GIFFARD

MR DONALD

COPIES TO

SIR I SINCLAIR LEGAL ADVISER

MR BURROWS LEGAL ADVISERS

MR ROBERTS NEWS D

MR MARTIN ASSESSMENTS STAFF
CABINET OFFICE

MR FLOWER FUSD

MR COLES NO 10 DOWNING ST.

SECRET