

SOA

SECRET

GR 380
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FM PEKING 240430Z JUN 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 585 OF 24 JUNE
RPTD INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG.

mf

head in file.

YOUR TELNO 390: FUTURE OF HONG KONG

1. I TELEPHONED ZHOU NAN THIS MORNING AND TOLD HIM THAT, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, I SAW NO DIFFICULTY ABOUT THE AGENDA AS AGREED YESTERDAY IE OUR DRAFT PLUS THE ADDITION OF "THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY" AND DELETION OF THE ARTICLE BEFORE "TRANSFER". HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT TO YAO GUANG WHO WOULD, NO DOUBT, ASK ME TO CALL ON 27 OR 28 JUNE.

2. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER WE COULD AGREE, FOR THE PURPOSES OF A FORMAL STATEMENT OF THE AGENDA, TO DELETE THE TWO LINES "IN ORDER TO MEET THE WISH OF THE CHINESE SIDE FOR A BROAD AGENDA COVERING THE WHOLE COURSE OF THE FORMAL TALKS, THE BRITISH SIDE AGREE "AND BEGINSIMPLY BY SAYING "IT IS AGREED THAT DURING THE COURSE OF THE TALKS ETC"? I SAID I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. HE THEN TRIED TO SUGGEST THAT IN PLACE OF "THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG" IN LINE 4, WE SHOULD HAVE "THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG". I SAID WE HAD NO SOONER AGREED AN AGENDA THAN HE WAS TRYING TO TINKER WITH IT. WE SHOULD STICK TO THE TEXT. HE ALSO SUGGESTED DELETION OF THE PHRASE "IT IS AGREED THAT" IN THE FINAL SENTENCE. AGAIN, I REFUSED. ZHOU DID NOT PRESS THESE LAST TWO POINTS.

3. WE ALSO READ OVER AGAIN THE AGREED TEXT OF THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT. HE SAID THAT AT MY MEETING WITH YAO GUANG WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FILL IN THE PRECISE DATE FOR THE BEGINNING OF TALKS AND AGREE THE WAY IN WHICH THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE.

4. AS SOON AS I GET A DEFINITE APPOINTMENT WITH YAO GUANG I SHALL LET YOU KNOW. GIVEN ZHOU NAN'S PERFORMANCE, WE CANNOT RULE OUT FURTHER LAST-MINUTE CHINESE ATTEMPTS AT CHISELLING, BUT WITH YAO GUANG THESE ARE LIKELY TO BE DONE IN A RATHER MORE ELEPHANTINE WAY.

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5. REGARDING THE TIMING OF THE FIRST MEETING, SUBJECT TO THE GOVERNOR'S VIEWS I SHOULD PREFER TO BEGIN ON TUESDAY, 12 JULY. THIS WOULD ALLOW THE GOVERNOR TO TRAVEL TO PEKING ON THE MONDAY, AND WE COULD MAKE OUR FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE TALKS DURING A NORMAL WORKING DAY. ON THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, THE CHINESE WILL NO DOUBT WISH TO RELEASE IT THEMSELVES VIA NCNA HERE. IF YOU AGREE, I SHALL PROPOSE TO YAO GUANG THAT WE SHOULD MAKE A SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT TO BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS IN PEKING.

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

HD/HKD
HD/FED
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/PUSD
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR LUCE
PS/FUS
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SIR A PARSONS " " "

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