

Prime Minister

This is unfortunate. Sir Percy Cuddehove was quite right to reject the protest. The former takes the view that the most important thing for confidence is to get the talks going and that we should not risk postponement by contesting these points with the Chinese. I am not sure it would be helpful, anyway, to have lots of Hong Kong journalists in Beijing speculating about the talks. A.S.C. 5/2.

GRS 400

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DESKBY 081030Z (BOTH)

FROM PEKING 080900Z JU L 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 651 OF 8/7/83

AND TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: SECOND PHASE

1. I HAD ZHOU NAN TO LUNCH TODAY TO DISCUSS THE FORTHCOMING TALKS. ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING THE PRESS ZHOU SAID THAT THE CHINESE VISA OFFICE IN HONG KONG HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REFUSE VISAS TO ALL HONG KONG JOURNALISTS APPLYING TO TRAVEL TO CHINA TO COVER THE TALKS. HE SAID THAT THE CHINESE WOULD DO THEIR BEST TO KEEP THOSE REPORTERS WHO DID COME TO PEKING AWAY FROM THE VENUE OF THE TALKS AND SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PRESS CONFERENCE. I TOLD ZHOU THAT THE REFUSAL OF VISAS TO HONG KONG JOURNALISTS WAS A MATTER FOR THE CHINESE TO DECIDE BUT IT WAS AN EXTREME MEASURE AND WOULD CERTAINLY GIVE RISE TO HOSTILE COMMENT.
2. ZHOU AGREED WITH ME THAT THERE SHOULD BE A JOINT ANODYNE STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AFTER THE TALKS AND UNDERTOOK TO CONSIDER MY SUGGESTION THAT THIS STATEMENT SHOULD SIMPLY SAY THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD HAD USEFUL TALKS AND AGREED TO CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSIONS.
3. ZHOU THEN TOLD ME THAT HE WISHED TO RAISE THE "UNPLEASANT" QUESTION OF AN AFP REPORT OF REMARKS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT KAI TAK. THE GOVERNOR WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE WAS COMING TO PEKING TO REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE HONG KONG PEOPLE. HAVING SEEN HONG KONG TEL NO 335 BUT NOT THE AFP REPORT IN QUESTION I TOLD ZHOU THAT THE REPORT DID NOT SEEM TO ME TO BE A FAITHFUL QUOTATION OF THE GOVERNOR'S WORDS. ZHOU HOWEVER WAS ADAMANT AND PROTESTED STRONGLY THAT THE GOVERNOR'S REMARKS WERE OBJECTIONABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE TO CHINA. THEY CONSTITUTED AN OBSTACLE TO TALKS. THE TALKS WERE A BILATERAL AFFAIR BETWEEN CHINA AND BRITAIN AND THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS NOT A THIRD PARTY. I FLATLY REJECTED THE PROTEST.

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/4. ZHOU

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4. ZHOU THEN SAID THAT PETER TSAO WOULD NOT (NOT) BE ISSUED WITH A VISA TO COME TO CHINA. HE WAS NOT A BRITISH OFFICIAL NOR WAS HE A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION. I PROTESTED AND SAID IT WAS NOT INTENDED THAT PETER TSAO SHOULD PLAY A PART IN THE TALKS BUT ONLY ASSIST THE EMBASSY DURING THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT.

5. ZHOU WAS VERY FIRM ON ALL THESE POINTS AND WAS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM FURTHER. HE SAID THE CHINESE DECISIONS WERE FINAL. HE IMPLIED THEY WERE LINKED TO THE REPORT OF WHAT THE GOVERNOR HAD SAID.

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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ED/FED
ED/PLANNING STAFF
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SIR A PARSONS " "
MR WALKER, RESEARCH DEPT (GOGAS) ✓
MR ROBERTS NEWS D

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DESKBY 081030Z (BOTH)

FROM PEKING 080905Z JUL 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 652 OF 8/7/83

AND TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

MIPT: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: SECOND PHASE.

1. AT LUNCH ON 8 JULY ZHOU NAN SAID THAT THE CHINESE WERE NOW THINKING IN TERMS OF TWO DAYS FOR THE OPENING ROUND WITH A MORNING SESSION BEGINNING AT 9.30 ON TUESDAY 12 JULY, A BREAK IN THE AFTERNOON OF 12 JULY AND A SECOND MEETING ON THE MORNING OF WEDNESDAY 13 JULY. THE FIRST MEETING WOULD CONSIST SIMPLY OF AN EXCHANGE OF OPENING STATEMENTS (ZHOU THOUGHT THAT THE CHINESE STATEMENT WOULD TAKE ABOUT 40 MINUTES). THE SECOND MEETING WOULD CONSIST OF COMMENTS ON THE OPENING STATEMENT AND A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NEXT MEETING. THE CHINESE FELT THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN INTERVAL OF 10 DAYS BEFORE THE SECOND MEETING. ZHOU WAS UNMOVED BY MY PROPOSAL FOR A SHORTER INTERVAL, BUT SAID THAT THE INTERVALS BETWEEN SUBSEQUENT ROUNDS WOULD BE OPEN TO FURTHER DISCUSSION.

2. I TOLD ZHOU THAT ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT OURSELVES NEED AN AFTERNOON BREAK WE HAD NO OBJECTION IF THE CHINESE PREFERRED IT THIS WAY. THE PUBLIC REASON GIVEN BY THE CHINESE WAS THAT THE WEATHER WAS NOW VERY HOT. THE REAL REASON I TAKE TO BE THAT THEY CANNOT/DARE NOT VENTURE ON COMMENT WITHOUT INSTRUCTION FROM THEIR LEADERS.

3. I SHALL BE TELEGRAPHING FURTHER ON THE LESS IMMEDIATE POINTS RAISED DURING THE LUNCH.

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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MR WALKER, RESEARCH DEPT (GOGGS)
MR ROBERTS NEWS D

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