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DESKBY 261230Z (BOTH)

SECRET

FROM PEKING 261145Z JUL 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 719 OF 26/7/83

REPEATED FOR INFO TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

MIPT: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: SECOND PLENARY SESSION:

SECOND MEETING: COMMENT

1. ONCE AGAIN THE MEETING WENT MUCH AS WE HAD ANTICIPATED. YAO GUANG WAS YET FIRMER ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT SOVEREIGNTY AND ADMINISTRATION MUST REVERT TO CHINA. HE USED TOUGHER LANGUAGE TODAY THAN YESTERDAY, REFERRING REPEATEDLY TO BRITISH 'OCCUPATION'; AND LI JUSHENG SPOKE OF 'CLOSING A DISGRACEFUL CHAPTER OF HISTORY'. LI'S OWN STATEMENT WAS A BETTER EFFORT THAN THAT OF 13 JULY AND HIS POINTS WERE LESS BIZARRE. HE HAS OBVIOUSLY HAD SOME SCHOOLING IN THE INTERVAL. NEVERTHELESS HE CONTINUED TO ERECT FALSE ARGUMENTS ON THE BASIS OF CAREFULLY SELECTED FACTS.

WE SHALL NEED TO REBUT HIS POINTS CAREFULLY AT THE NEXT ROUND.

2. FROM WHAT THE CHINESE SAID TODAY THE GOVERNOR'S PRESENTATION HAS HAD NO DETECTABLE IMPACT ON THEIR POSITION, THOUGH OF COURSE WE WOULD NOT EXPECT IT TO HAVE BEEN ABSORBED SO QUICKLY.

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3. FOR OUR PART WE HAVE PUT OUR ANSWER TO YAO'S PRINCIPLE ON THE RECORD , AND WE HAVE DEALT FULLY AND FIRMLY WITH THE STATEMENT MADE BY LI JUSHENG ON 13 JULY. NEITHER SIDE HAS GIVEN ANY GROUND BUT BOTH ARE PREAPRED TO CONTINUE TALKING AND LISTENING TO EACH OTHER. THE WAY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR US TO HAND OVER AND INTRODUCE OUR FOUR PAPERS AT THE NEXT ROUND.

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED  
HD/HKD  
HD/FED  
HD/PLANNING STAFF  
HD/PUSD  
PS  
PS/LADY YOUNG  
PS/MR LUCE  
PS/PUS  
SIR J BULLARD  
MR GIFFARD  
MR DONALD  
MR WRIGHT

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SIR A PARSONS " "  
MR WALKER, RESEARCH DEPT  
MR ROBERTS NEWS D GOGGS

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