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DD 210100Z HONG KONG

GRS 331

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DESKBY 210100Z

FM FCO 201910Z SEP 83

TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

TELEGRAM NUMBER 937 OF 20 SEPTEMBER

INFORMATION IMMEDIATE PEKING (PERSONAL FOR  
AMBASSADOR) AND BRUNEI (FOR PS/MR LUCE)

MY TELNO 618 TO PEKING: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: FURTHER DISCUSSION  
WITH EXCO

1. AS EXPLAINED IN TUR, WE ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO EXCO BEING  
UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THE TACTIC  
WHICH THEY HAVE SUGGESTED. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD  
ARRANGE TO SPEAK TO THEM ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

'MINISTERS HAVE CAREFULLY STUDIED THE GOVERNOR'S REPORT OF  
HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH EXCO LAST WEEK. THEY ARE GRATEFUL FOR  
EXCO'S ADVICE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS. THEY ARE GLAD  
THAT IT IS AGREED THAT ON 22 SEPTEMBER THE BRITISH  
NEGOTIATORS SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS THE ARGUMENTS FOR  
BRITISH ADMINISTRATION. MINISTERS FIND HELPFUL THE  
SUGGESTION BY EXCO MEMBERS FOR TACTICS IF THE CHINESE REMAIN  
ADAMANT. THEY AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO INVITE THE  
CHINESE TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS OF THEIR OWN  
PLAN AND TO SAY WHAT GUARANTEES FOR HONG KONG'S AUTONOMY  
THESE MIGHT GIVE WHILE FIRMLY MAINTAINING OUR POSITION. WE  
UNDERSTAND THAT EXCO HAVE HAD A FULL DISCUSSION OF THE  
POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A MOVE, IN PARTICULAR THE RISK  
THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT MIGHT TRY TO REPRESENT IT AS  
A SHIFT OF POSITION AND AN ACCEPTANCE BY THE BRITISH  
GOVERNMENT TO WORK ON THE BASIS OF THE CHINESE PROPOSALS  
WE UNDERSTAND THAT EXCO BELIEVE THAT THIS RISK WOULD BE  
ACCEPTABLE PROVIDED THAT WE WERE READY TO REFUTE ANY SUCH  
CHINESE STATEMENTS PUBLICLY. MINISTERS BELIEVE THAT THIS IS  
THE RIGHT APPROACH, AND THE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR

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MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT OUR INVITATION TO THE CHINESE TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE POSITION OF EITHER SIDE.'

2. GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CONFIRM THAT THEY CAN UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS, ENABLING THE AMBASSADOR TO GO AHEAD AS INSTRUCTED IN TUR.

HOWE

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

COPIES TO

SIR IAN SINCLAIR LEGAL ADVISER

MR BURROWS LEGAL ADVISER

MR ROBERTS NEWS D

MR MARTIN ASSESSMENTS STAFF  
CABINET OFFICE

MR FLOWER PUSD

MR COLES NO 10 DOWNING STREET

SIR A PARSONS NO 10 DOWNING STREET

MR WALKER RESEARCH D (GOGGS)

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