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FROM PEKING 040850Z MCT 83

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 978 OF 4/10/83

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REPEATED FOR INFO TO ROUTINE HONG KONG

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW OFFICE FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF CHINA.

1. XINHUA REPORTED ON 30 SEPTEMBER THAT THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE (CPPCC) HAS SET UP A SPECIAL OFFICE TO WORK FOR THE COUNTRY'S REUNIFICATION. ITS FIRST MEETING TOOK PLACE ON 29 SEPTEMBER. THERE ARE 27 MEMBERS SELECTED BY THE CPPCC NATIONAL COMMITTEE. MOST OF THEM HAVE RELATIONS OR FRIENDS IN TAIWAN, HONG KONG AND MACAO. HEAD OF THE OFFICE IS QU WU, WHO IS A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF BOTH THE CPPCC NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE OF THE CHINESE KUOMINTANG. AMONG QU'S FIVE DEPUTIES IS WANG KUANG, FORMER NCNA DIRECTOR IN HONG KONG.
2. THE FUNCTION OF THE OFFICE WILL BE TO PUBLICIZE POLICIES ON THE COUNTRY'S REUNIFICATION THROUGH ALL POSSIBLE MEDIA. IT WILL STUDY THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN TAIWAN, HONG KONG AND MACAO, AND STRENGTHEN CONTACTS WITH PEOPLE ELSEWHERE WHO ARE WORKING FOR REUNIFICATION OF CHINA.

COMMENT

3. THE OFFICE HAS NO DOUBT BEEN CREATED AS ANOTHER VEHICAL FOR THE CHINESE TO PUBLICISE THEIR POSITION ON HONG KONG AND TO POINT TO THE WIDESPREAD SUPPORT THEIR POLICIES SUPPOSEDLY ENJOY. AS AN ALLEGED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, IT COULD ALSO BE USED TO LEAK DETAILS OF THE TALKS WITHOUT LAYING THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT OPEN TO THE CHARGE OF BREACHING CONFIDENTIALITY

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