

GR 300

SECRET

SECRET

DESKBY FCO 150800Z
DESKBY PEKING 150500Z
FM HONG KONG 1500420Z OCT 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1530 OF 15 OCTOBER
INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING

THIS IS A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL IS
RETAINED UNDER SECTION
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

Read in full.

A.S.C.

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: CHINESE LEAK

1. CLAIRE HOLLINGWORTH, WHO WRITES FROM HERE FOR THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, HAS GIVEN US IN CONFIDENCE THE GIST OF A CONVERSATION ON 14 OCTOBER WITH LI RUCHE, A RELATIVELY JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE QUOTE DIPLOMATIC UNQUOTE WING OF NCNA, WITH WHOM SHE MAINTAINS REGULAR CONTACT.

2. LI ASKED WHETHER MISS HOLLINGWORTH KNEW THE CONTENT OF THE QUOTE IMPORTANT MESSAGE UNQUOTE WHICH SIR P CRADOCK WAS CONVEYING TO THE CHINESE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE (QUOTE WAS THERE NOTHING ON THE BBC? UNQUOTE) WHEN HOLLINGWORTH DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH MESSAGE. LI SAID HE HOPED THE MESSAGE WOULD CONTAIN AN ASSURANCE THAT BRITAIN RECOGNISED CHINA'S SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG, REFERRING IN THIS CONTEXT TO QUOTE A LETTER UNQUOTE THE PRIME MINISTER HAD WRITTEN TO ZHAO ZIYANG. HE ALSO HOPED SUCH AN ASSURANCE ON SOVEREIGNTY WOULD BE GIVEN BEFORE THE RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS ON 19 OCTOBER SINCE THE CHINESE SIDE WAS QUOTE FED UP UNQUOTE WITH BRITAIN'S INFLEXIBLE STANCE.

3. ASSISTANT POLITICAL ADVISER OFFERED NO (NO) COMMENT ON MISS HOLLINGWORTH'S ACCOUNT OF THIS CONVERSATION. HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE MIGHT TRY TO GET A PIECE BASED ON IT INTO TOMORROW'S SUNDAY TELEGRAPH.

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4.

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS
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OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

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FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

HD/HKD

HD/FED

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/FUSD

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR LUCE

PS/FUS

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 FUSD

MR COLES NO 10 DOWNING STREET

SIR A PARSONS NO 10 DOWNING STREET

MR WALKER RESEARCH D CAB 2/82

MR GOODALL, CABINET OFFICE

9
SECRET

SECRET

GR 170
SECRET
DESKBY FCO 150800Z
DESKBY HONG 150900Z
FM PEKING 150725Z OCT 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1030 OF 15 OCTOBER
AND IMMEDIATE INFO HONG KONG

MT

HONG KONG TELEGRAM NO 1530: FUTURE OF HONG KONG : CHINESE LEAK
THE MFA HAVE KNOWN THAT I WAS BRINGING AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE
SINCE WE REQUESTED AN INTERVIEW ON 8 OCTOBER. THEY TRIED IN
A CLUMSY WAY TO DISCOVER FROM US IN OUR VARIOUS CONTACTS WITH
THEM LAST WEEK WHAT ITS CONTENTS WERE. LI RUOHE'S APPROACH
TO MISS HOLLINGWORTH IS PRESUMABLY ANOTHER SUCH CLUMSY ATTEMPT.
LI WAS PROBABLY NOT AWARE THAT I WAS HANDING OVER THE MESSAGE
THE SAME DAY (14 OCTOBER).

2. WE SHOULD NOT WISH TO MAKE A DEMARCHE TO THE CHINESE ABOUT
THIS. HOWEVER WE EXPECT TO SEE LUO JIAHUAN ON MONDAY FOR A
ROUTINE TALK ABOUT THE MECHANICS OF THE NEXT TALKS, AND WOULD
BE PREPARED TO TAX HIM WITH LI'S INDISCRETION. FOR THIS TO BE
PRACTICAL WE SHOULD NEED TO MENTION BOTH LI AND MISS HOLLINGWORTH
BY NAME.

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

- LIMITED
- HD/HKD
- HD/FED
- HD/PLANNING STAFF
- HD/PUSD
- PS
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- PS/MR LUCE
- PS/PUS
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