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PS  
PS/PUS  
PS/MR LUCE  
MR DONALD  
HD/HKD  
HD/FED

COPY TO:  
MR COLES, No. 10 DOWNING ST

RESIDENT CLERK

SECRET

FROM PEKING 211000Z OCT 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1067 OF 21/10/83

REPEATED FOR INFO TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

IMMEDIATE  
ADVANCE COPY

*mt*  
*th*

MY TEL NO 1066: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: INFORMAL CONTACTS

1. OVER THE PAST 10 DAYS, IN FACT SINCE THE CHINESE SIDE KNEW THAT I WAS BRINGING BACK AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM LONDON, THEY HAVE BEGUN TO TALK OF THE NEED FOR INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATIONS. AS YOU WILL SEE FROM MY TEL NO 1062, WE MADE USE OF THIS ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE TALKS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS CONTACT HAD A BENEFICIAL EFFECT, AND THE CHINESE TOLD US AT THE END OF THE SECOND DAY THAT THEY HAD MADE THE TONE OF THEIR INTERVENTIONS ON THE SECOND DAY MUCH WARMER AS A RESULT OF IT.

2. ALTHOUGH THE RECORD OMITTED THIS, YAO GUANG IN FACT PROPOSED DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING AND THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE THAT THERE SHOULD BE INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS DURING THE INTERVENING PERIOD. THIS WAS PARTLY BECAUSE THE CHINESE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO AGREE TO OUR FIRST PROPOSAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE A FURTHER MEETING NEXT WEEK. THE CHINESE ALSO AGREED THAT WE SHOULD LET THE PRESS KNOW THAT THERE WOULD BE SUCH INFORMAL CONTACTS TO OFFSET ANY NEGATIVE IMPRESSION WHICH THE LENGTH OF THE GAP MIGHT CAUSE.

3. NOW THAT THERE IS SOME HOPE WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS I THINK THESE CONTACTS WILL BE USEFUL AND ALSO NECESSARY. WE SIMPLY CANNOT RELY ONLY ON PLENARY SESSIONS WHICH ARE INEVITABLY GOING TO BE FAIRLY FEW AND FAR BETWEEN.

CRADOCK