

IMMEDIATE
ADVANCE COPY

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

COPY TO:
MR COLES, No. 10 DOWNING ST

MR ROBERTS NEWS

CONFIDENTIAL
FM HONG KONG 281015Z OCT 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1630 OF 28 OCTOBER
INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING

A.T.C. 28/10
h.a.

MY TELNO 1621: KMT ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

1. LI CHUWEN (DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NCNA) ASKED TO SEE THE POLITICAL ADVISER AT VERY SHORT NOTICE THIS AFTERNOON. HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY PAID SUCH A CALL.

2. LI SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO MAKE ORAL REPRESENTATIONS AND DID NOT LEAVE A SPEAKING NOTE. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:
(i) DESPITE THE PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY NCNA IT APPEARED FROM THE PRESS THAT CHOW HING-CHUEN'S RALLY ON 30 OCTOBER WAS GOING AHEAD. NCNA HAD ALSO LEARNED THAT HE WAS PLANNING A RALLY IN YUEN LONG ON 29 OCTOBER AND A FURTHER MEETING AT THE END OF THE YEAR, AND THAT HE INTENDED TO DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS AND OTHER MATERIAL AT MTR STATIONS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES. ALL THIS AMOUNTED TO AN ESCALATION AND INTENSIFICATION OF PRO-KMT ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG.

(ii) THESE ACTIVITIES WERE SUPPORTED OR CONNIVED AT BY "SOME PEOPLE" (BY IMPLICATION OFFICIALS).

(iii) IN THE PAST THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD COOPERATED IN PROHIBITING OR RESTRICTING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE KMT IN HONG KONG. LI WAS BOUND TO ASK WHETHER THIS POLICY HAD NOW CHANGED.

(iv) IF THERE HAD BEEN SUCH A CHANGE THERE WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IMPLICATIONS NOT ONLY FOR THE TALKS ON THE FUTURE BUT ALSO FOR SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS MORE GENERALLY.

3. MCLAREN SAID THAT HE HAD THAT MORNING SEEN A REPORT OF A CONVERSATION ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PEKING AND THE COUNSELLOR AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY. HE NOTED THAT LUO JIAHUAN HAD SPOKEN IN VERY SIMILAR TERMS TO TAN GAN WHEN THE LATTER HAD RAISED THE MATTER WITH HIM PREVIOUSLY. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT NO ACCOUNT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN OF THE EXPLANATIONS WHICH HE HAD GIVEN, AND THAT LUO HAD REPEATED THE POINTS ABOUT LARGE SCALE ATTENDANCE AT THE PLANNED 30 OCTOBER RALLY AND INVITATIONS TO HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND UMELCO MEMBERS WHICH HE THOUGHT HE HAD DISPOSED OF.

4. THE POLITICAL ADVISER MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON LI'S SPECIFIC POINTS:

(A) HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT A RALLY IN YUEN LONG ON 29 OCTOBER OR OF A FURTHER RALLY BEING PLANNED FOR THE END OF THE YEAR. HE WOULD INVESTIGATE. BUT HE DID NOT AGREE THAT CHOW'S MEETINGS AMOUNTED TO AN EXCALATION OF PRO-KMT ACTIVITY. THEY SHOULD BE KEPT IN PERSPECTIVE.

(B) AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED NO SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, EXCO OR LEGCO MEMBERS HAD ATTENDED ANY OF CHOW'S MEETINGS OR WERE LIKELY TO DO SO. HE THEREFORE DID NOT UNDERSTAND LI'S REFERENCE TO

(B) AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPLAINED NO SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, EXCO OR LEGCO MEMBERS HAD ATTENDED ANY OF CHOW'S MEETINGS OR WERE LIKELY TO DO SO. HE THEREFORE DID NOT UNDERSTAND LHM'S REFERENCE TO PEOPLE WHO WERE SUPPORTING OR CONNIVING AT CHOW'S ACTIVITIES. WHO DID HE MEAN? IN RESPONSE LHM SAID HE WOULD TAKE MCLAREN'S WORD AS REGARDS OFFICIALS AND UMELCO MEMBERS. HE THEN CLAIMED THAT MR JOHN WALDEN (A RETIRED FORMER SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL NOW LIVING IN HONG KONG) HAD SIGNED ONE OF CHOW'S PETITIONS AND HAD SPOKEN AT A MEETING. MCLAREN SAID THAT WALDEN WAS A PRIVATE CITIZEN WHO NO LONGER HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT. HE DID NOT HOWEVER BELIEVE THAT WALDEN WOULD GET INVOLVED IN PRO-TAIWAN ACTIVITIES.

(C) HMG RECOGNISED ONLY ONE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, THAT OF THE PRC. AS NCNA KNEW, THE HKG HAD NO DESIRE TO SEE HONG KONG USED AS A BASE FOR KMT ACTIVITIES AND HAD BEEN QUICK TO PUT A STOP TO THOSE WHICH WERE ILLEGAL. THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE WHATSOEVER IN THE POLICY CONSISTENTLY PURSUED BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IN THIS RESPECT. BUT IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST PEOPLE WHO STAYED WITHIN THE LAW, HOWEVER MUCH WE MIGHT DISAPPROVE OF THE OPINIONS THEY EXPRESSED.

(D) MCLAREN REPEATED THAT CHOW'S ACTIVITIES WERE ON A VERY SMALL SCALE AND SHOULD BE KEPT IN PERSPECTIVE. IN THE LIGHT OF HIS EXPLANATIONS HE SAW NO REASON WHY A PERIPHERAL MATTER OF THIS KIND SHOULD SOUR THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE TALKS OR AFFECT SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS.

5. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION TAN GAN, WHO ACCOMPANIED LHM, CLAIMED THAT DESPITE ANNUAL REPRESENTATIONS FROM NCNA, THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER DONE ANYTHING TO STOP THE DISPLAY OF NATIONALIST FLAGS ON THE DOUBLE TENTH. THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN FEWER OF THESE IN THE MAIN URBAN AREAS THIS YEAR BUT THEY WERE JUST AS NUMEROUS AS EVER IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES AND SUCH PLACES AS YUEN LONG. MCLAREN COMMENTED THAT AS NCNA KNEW WE PROHIBITED THE DISPLAY OF NATIONALIST FLAGS IN PUBLIC PREMISES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO UNDER THE LAW ABOUT THEIR DISPLAY ON PRIVATE PREMISES.

6. COMMENT. THIS WAS A FORCEFUL EXCHANGE BUT DOES NOT AFFECT THE RECOMMENDATION IN MY TEL UNDER REF FOR THE LINE WHICH THE EMBASSY SHOULD TAKE IN RESPONSE TO LUO JINHUAN. SHOULD LUO RAISE THE MEETING IN YUEN LONG ON 29 OCTOBER, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT IT IS BEING HELD ON PRIVATE PREMISES (THE PLAYGROUND OF A PRO-KMT SCHOOL). NO POLICE PERMISSION IS REQUIRED FOR SUCH MEETINGS.

YOUDE

NNNN

FUTURE OF HONG KONG ADVANCE COPIES 9 10

IMMEDIATE
ADVANCE COPY

47a

PS

PS/PUS

PS/MR LUCE

MR DONALD

HD/HKD

HD/FED

COPY TO:

MR COLES, No. 10 DOWNING ST

RE ROBERTS NEWS

CONFIDENTIAL

FM HONG KONG 280750Z OCT 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1621 OF 28 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING

A.J.C. - 28/10
h.a.

YOUR TELNO 1108: KMT ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG

1. CHOW HING-CHUEN AND HIS QUOTE WANDERERS ASSOCIATION UNQUOTE HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF THREE SEPARATE REPRESENTATIONS BY NCNA SINCE THE FORMER'S RALLY ON 25 SEPTEMBER. ON 28 SEPTEMBER NCNA CALLED ON THE ASSISTANT POLITICAL ADVISER AND ON 12 AND 25 THE POLITICAL ADVISER. ON EACH OCCASION NCNA HANDED OVER SPEAKING NOTES ALONG THE LINES OF LUO'S REMARKS TO GALS WORTHY (PEKING TELNO 1096). THEY ALSO SOUGHT AN ASSURANCE THAT CHOW WOULD BE REFUSED PERMISSION FROM THE POLICE TO STAGE HIS PLANNED RALLY ON 30 OCTOBER.

2. IN REPLY TO NCNA WE HAVE STRESSED THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) WHILE THE HONG KONG AUTHORITIES DEALT PROMPTLY AND APPROPRIATELY WITH THOSE WHO BROKE THE LAW, CHOW'S RALLIES WERE NOT ILLEGAL, AND PERMISSION FROM THEM COULD NOT LAWFULLY BE WITHHELD.

B) MANY MEETINGS WERE HELD IN HONG KONG SOME OF WHICH WERE TO PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT ACTIONS OR LACK OF ACTION. THE POLICE WERE OBLIGED TO GRANT PERMISSION PROVIDED THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS LAWFUL. THE GRANTING OF PERMISSION DID NOT IN ANY WAY IMPLY GOVERNMENT APPROVAL.

C) CHOW AND HIS ACTIVITIES COULD BE KEPT IN PERSPECTIVE. HE SPOKE FOR HIMSELF AND HAD LITTLE INFLUENCE.

D) WHATEVER INVITATIONS CHOW MAY HAVE ISSUED, NO SENIOR HKG OFFICIALS OR UMELCO MEMBERS HAD ATTENDED HIS RALLIES IN THE PAST. WE DID NOT EXPECT ANY TO ATTEND ON 30 OCTOBER.

E) EVEN IF SUCH ACTION WERE POSSIBLE, TO RESCIND PERMISSION FOR THE RALLY AT THIS STAGE WOULD RESULT IN MORE PUBLICITY FOR CHOW AND HIS VIEWS THAN IF THE RALLY WENT AHEAD.

3. THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAS POWER TO PROHIBIT A PUBLIC MEETING UNDER THE PUBLIC ORDER ORDINANCE (CAP 245). HE MUST DO SO WITHIN FOUR DAYS OF PROPER NOTIFICATION AND THEN ONLY ON LIMITED GROUNDS (E.G. IF PUBLIC ORDER MIGHT BE PREJUDICED OR THE MEETING USED FOR AN UNLAWFUL PURPOSE). AT THIS STAGE IT WOULD NOT (NOT) BE POSSIBLE TO RESCIND THE PERMISSION GRANTED TO CHOW FOR HIS RALLY

FOUR DAYS OF PROPER NOTIFICATION AND THEN ONLY ON LIMITED GROUNDS (E.G. IF PUBLIC ORDER MIGHT BE PREJUDICED OR THE MEETING USED FOR AN UNLAWFUL PURPOSE). AT THIS STAGE IT WOULD NOT (NOT) BE POSSIBLE TO RESCIND THE PERMISSION GRANTED TO CHOW FOR HIS RALLY ON 30 OCTOBER. THE RALLY ON 25 SEPTEMBER ATTRACTED ONLY SOME 300 PEOPLE AND WAS NEVER A THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER.

4. IN THEIR SUBSTANTIVE REPLY, THE EMBASSY COULD REPEAT GALSWORDY'S PRELIMINARY REMARKS (PEKING TELNO 1096) AND DRAW ON PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 ABOVE. THEY MIGHT ADD THAT, AS LUO JIAHUAN WILL KNOW, RALLIES AND MEETINGS ARE HELD IN HONG KONG ALL THE TIME. SOME, FOR EXAMPLE THOSE ORGANISED AT THE TIME OF THE QUOTE JAPANESE SCHOOL TEXT BOOKS UNQUOTE ISSUE OR THE RECENT ANTI-PRICE RISE RALLIES, HAVE BEEN VERY LARGE. PERMISSION TO HOLD THEM HAS NONE THE LESS BEEN GIVEN. BY COMPARISON, CHOW'S AFFAIRS ARE VERY SMALL BEER. THEY HAVE ATTRACTED VERY LITTLE PUBLIC ATTENTION. IN SPITE OF CHOW'S CLAIMS THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE ATTEND (PARA 1 OF PEKING TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE), WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS RALLY WILL BE ANY BETTER ATTENDED THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE.

5. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE SHALL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CHINESE SENSITIVITIES AS REVEALED BY NCHA'S AND THE MFA'S REPRESENTATIONS WHEN CONSIDERING ANY FUTURE APPLICATIONS FROM CHOW. BUT WE WILL NOT NECESSARILY REACH DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS.

YOUDE

NNNN

XX 0 12

GRS 530

CONFIDENTIAL

44c

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 271200 (FCO)

DESKBY 280100Z (HONG KONG)

FROM PEKING 271040Z OCT 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1096 OF 27/10/83

MS

REPEATED FOR INFO TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

KMT ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG

1. LUO JIAHUAN ASKED GALSWORTHY TO CALL AT THE MFA THIS AFTERNOON. HE DREW ATTENTION TO AN ORGANISATION IN HONG KONG CALLED THE ASSOCIATION OF THE VAGABONDS (LIU LANG ZHE XIE HUI) LED BY ONE ZHOU QINGZUAN. THIS WAS A TAIWAN ORIENTED ASSOCIATION, WHICH HAD ORGANISED A RALLY ON 25 SEPTEMBER FOR ABOUT 300 PEOPLE. THEY HAD OPENLY CALLED FOR THE CONTINUATION OF BRITISH ADMINISTRATION AFTER 1997. CHINESE GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAD BEEN ATTACKED. IN ADVANCE OF THE RALLY, THE NCNA OFFICE IN HONG KONG HAD APPROACHED THE POLITICAL ADVISER'S OFFICE ON AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS ASKING THE HONG KONG AUTHORITIES TO TAKE MEASURES TO STOP SUCH ELEMENTS FROM ENGAGING IN ANTI-CHINESE ACTIVITIES, BUT TO NO AVAIL. A FURTHER RALLY BY THIS ASSOCIATION WAS PLANNED FOR 30 OCTOBER. SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE MIGHT THIS TIME PARTICIPATE. HKG OFFICIALS AND EXCO AND LEGCO MEMBERS HAD BEEN INVITED. THE ASSOCIATION WAS CONTROLLED FROM TAIWAN AND CONSISTED OF ELEMENTS WHO HAD FLED FROM CHINA IN THE PAST. IT TOOK A HOSTILE ATTITUDE TO CHINA. ITS OBJECTIVE WAS TO UNDERMIND STABILITY IN HONG KONG AND TO DAMAGE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS. LUO WAS RAISING THIS ON INSTRUCTIONS. THE HKG HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY, DUTY AND CAPABILITY TO STOP THE 30 OCTOBER RALLY. HE EXPRESSED REGRET AT THE LACK OF ATTENTION HITHERTO SHOWN TO THE NCNA'S APPROACHES ON THIS SUBJECT. HE HOPED THAT THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THIS EMBASSY EFFECTIVE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY BY THE HONG KONG AUTHORITIES TO PREVENT THIS ANTI-CHINESE RALLY SCHEDULED FOR 30 OCTOBER AND SIMILAR RECURRENCES IN THE FUTURE. OTHERWISE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS WOULD BE DAMAGED.

2. IN REPLY GALSWORTHY DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORGANISATION OR ITS LEADER. HE SAID ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT WE DID NOT SUPPORT ANTI-CHINESE ACTIVITIES IN HONG KONG, BUT WE RESPECTED THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH THERE, WHICH THE CHINESE SAID HAD ALSO SAID IT

CONFIDENTIAL

/WAS

WAS COMMITTED TO PRESERVE. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST PEOPLE MERELY BECAUSE THEIR VIEWS DIFFERED FROM YOUR OWN, UNLESS THEY BROKE THE LAW. THIS WAS THE MEANING OF THE RULE OF LAW. AS FAR AS LUO'S COMMENTS ON THE AIMS OF THE ORGANISATION WERE CONCERNED, GALSWORTHY DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE HONG KONG AUTHORITIES WOULD PERMIT THIS ORGANISATION TO UNDERMINE STABILITY IN HONG KONG. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE EASY TO PREVENT A SOURING OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS IF BOTH SIDES WERE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. HE UNDERTOOK TO REPORT LUO'S COMMENTS FULLY, AND TO PROVIDE AN ANSWER.

3. IN RESPONSE LUO SAID THAT FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN HONG KONG WAS JUSTIFIABLE. THE CHINESE SIDE BELIEVED IT SHOULD CONTINUE, BUT THESE ANTI-CHINESE ACTIVITIES DID NOT FALL INTO THE CATEGORY OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

HE CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES COULD ONLY DAMAGE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS. THE ONLY ADDITIONAL POINT HE MADE WAS THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAD THE POWER TO STOP SUCH RALLIES BECAUSE POLICE PERMISSION WAS NECESSARY FOR THEM.

4. AFTER FURTHER STERILE DISCUSSION ON THESE LINES DURING WHICH LUO MAINTAINED THAT IF THE BRITISH POSITION IN THE TALKS HAD REALLY CHANGED THIS SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE GROUND IN HONG KONG. GALSWORTHY AGAIN CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD REPORT BACK.

5 COMMENT

WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE RALLIES, BUT ARE STRUCK BY THE VEH-
EMENCE OF THE CHINESE INTERVENTION. GRATEFUL FOR BACKGROUND
AND A LINE TO TAKE.

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED
HD/HKD
HD/FED
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/PUSD
D/HD/PUSD(MR FLOWER)
RESEARCH DEPT(MR WALKER)
LEGAL ADVISER(SIR IAN SINCLAIR)
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
MR GIFFARD
MR DONALD
MR WRIGHT

COPIES TO:

MR ROBERTS NEWS DEPT
MR BURROWS LEGAL ADVISER
MR MARTIN ASSESSMENTS STAFF
CABINET OFFICE
MR COLES NO 10 DOWNING ST
SIR A PARSONS " "
MR GOODALL CABINET OFFICE
SIR PHILIP MOORE BUCKINGHAM PALACE
PS/LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
PS/HOME SECRETARY
PS/CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
PS/LORD PRIVY SEAL
PS/SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY
PS/ATTORNEY GENERAL

CONFIDENTIAL