

DMF G 072

LTA 412/17

OO FCO

OO HONG KONG

BRS 440

SECRET

HKD
IMMEDIATE
ADVANCE COPY

FROM PEKING 170900Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1206 OF 17/11/83

REPEATED FOR INFO TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

~~MY TEL NO 1199: FUTURE OF HONG KONG~~

1. I PROMISED IN MY TEL NO 1199 TO TELEGRAPH IDEAS ON A FORMULA TO EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF BRITISH LINK OR ROLE. GIVEN CHINESE SUSPICIONS, WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE FORMULA WE USE IS AS UNAMBIGUOUS AS WE CAN MAKE IT IN ORDER TO GIVE IT THE MAXIMUM CHANCE OF SUCCESS. I SUGGEST SOMETHING ON THE FOLLOWING LINES.

-BEGINS

"THE CHINESE SIDE HAVE REPEATEDLY ASKED US TO DEFINE MORE CLEARLY WHAT WE MEAN BY THE EXPRESSION "A SUBSTANTIAL BRITISH ROLE" WHICH WAS USED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN HER MESSAGE OF 14 OCTOBER. I WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR ON INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE BRITISH SIDE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE CHINESE PLAN IS BASED UPON THE PREMISE THAT BOTH SOVEREIGNTY AND THE RIGHT OF ADMINISTRATION OVER THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD REVERT TO CHINA AFTER 1997. FOR THIS REASON THE BRITISH SIDE DOES NOT INTEND, IN THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSION PROPOSED IN THE PRIME

MINISTER'S MESSAGE, TO MAKE ANY PROPOSAL ON LINKS BETWEEN BRITAIN AND HONG KONG WHICH CONFLICTS WITH THE PREMISE THAT BOTH SOVEREIGNTY AND THE RIGHT OF ADMINISTRATION OVER THE WHOLE OF HONG KONG SHOULD REVERT TO CHINA IN 1997. IN PARTICULAR, THE BRITISH SIDE DOES NOT INTEND TO PROPOSE ANY LINK OF AUTHORITY OR ACCOUNTABILITY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HONG KONG SAR AFTER 1997 AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AT ANY LEVEL. THE BRITISH SIDE WOULD ALSO BE WORKING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT ANY BRITISH SUBJECTS WHO CONTINUED TO SERVE IN HONG KONG AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WOULD BE IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SAR AND WOULD OWE THEIR LOYALTIES TO THAT GOVERNMENT. THEY WOULD NOT BE APPOINTED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, NOR WOULD THEY BE RESPONSIBLE TO LONDON.

"THE BRITISH SIDE HOPES THAT BRITAIN WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO PLAY A SUBSTANTIAL ROLE IN HONG KONG. ON THE BASIS OF THE CHINESE PLAN WE WOULD SEE THIS ROLE AS BEING ONE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE SAR, AND NOT ONE OF AUTHORITY. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE MANY AREAS WHERE BRITAIN, IN COOPERATION WITH THE CHINESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE NEW HONG KONG SAR AND TO HELP PROMOTE ITS INTERESTS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THESE MATTERS IN DETAIL WITH THE CHINESE SIDE AS WE EXAMINE THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HONG KONG.

~~22 I SHOULD LIKE ALSO TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DO NOT SEEK CO-ADMINISTRATION IN HONG KONG IN ANY FORM".~~

ENDS.

CRADDOCK

CCN 3 LINES FROM ENDWA HONG KONG. "

FUTURE OF HONG KONG ADVANCE COPIES 10

PS
PS/PUS
PS/MR LUCE
MR DONALD
HD/~~FKD~~
ED/FED

COPY TO:

MR COLES, No. 10 DOWNING ST

Mr Roberts News D.

~~RESIDENT COPY~~

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10/1/17