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FM PEKING 090820Z DEC 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1321 OF 9 DECEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

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FUTURE OF HONG KONG: SEVENTH ROUND

1. IN VARIOUS INFORMAL CONTACTS DURING THE AFTERNOON AND OVER DINNER ON 8 DECEMBER THE FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED:

(A) SOME OF THE CLARIFICATION I HAD SOUGHT IN MY 8 DECEMBER STATEMENT WOULD CAUSE THE CHINESE NO DIFFICULTIES. WE WOULD BE SATISFIED BY THEIR RESPONSE. LU PING EXPLICITLY CONFIRMED THAT "FOR THE RECORD" MEANT JUST THAT. NO ACT OF APPROVAL WAS IMPLIED:

(B) JUDGES: LU PING SUGGESTED THAT INSTEAD OF ELECTION OF JUDGES BY THE SAR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE JUDICIAL SERVICES COMMISSION, WHICH MIGHT BE RETAINED, MERELY TO BE FORMALLY APPROVED BY THAT ASSEMBLY.

(C) PLA TROOPS: YAO GUANG SAID THAT HONG KONG PRESS REPORTS THAT THE CHINESE WOULD NOT SEND IN PLA TROOPS TO HONG KONG WERE INACCURATE. LU PING SAID THAT THE PLA WOULD HAVE A LARGELY SYMBOLIC PRESENCE IN HONG KONG. THE GOVERNOR AND I SEPARATELY STRESSED THE INADVISABILITY OF SENDING TROOPS. I MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE FOR HONG KONG:

(D) APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR OFFICIALS: LU PING CLARIFIED YAO'S REFERENCE TO THE CHIEF OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS WHO WOULD BE NOMINATED BY THE SAR GOVERNMENT AND APPOINTED BY THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT (PARA 5(C) OF MY TELNO 1314). HE SAID THAT THIS REFERRED ONLY TO THE SECRETARIES:

(E) WORKING PAPERS: FURTHER EFFORTS WERE MADE TO DISCOVER THE SUBJECTS AND SUBMISSION DATES FOR OUR FURTHER PAPERS. WE WERE AGAIN URGED TO SUBMIT REMAINING PAPERS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY BEFORE THE EIGHTH ROUND. YAO SAID THAT OUR PAPERS SHOULD NOT JUST POSE QUESTIONS BUT OFFER SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS:

(F) NPC LAW: THE CHINESE BASIC LAW FOR HONG KONG WOULD BE VERY COMPLEX. IT WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME TO DRAW UP.

(G) YAO SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE ANOTHER INFORMAL CONTACT WITH ME BEFORE MY DEPARTURE.

2. LUO JIAHUAN SEPARATEL SAID THAT THE CHINESE HAD APPRECIATED MY WELCOME FOR YAO'S 7 DECEMBER STATEMENT.

~~2. LUO JIANWAN SEPARATELY SAID THAT THE CHINESE HAD APPRECIATED MY WELCOME FOR YAO'S 7 DECEMBER STATEMENT.~~

HE DREW SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO YAO'S REMARK ON 8 DECEMBER THAT CONCERNING THOSE ISSUES WHICH WERE FOR THE FUTURE SAR IT WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT CURRENT PRACTICES WOULD CONTINUE AFTER 1997 UNTIL THE SAR DECIDED TO REPLACE THEM (PARA 9 OF MY TELNO 1314). LUO DESCRIBED THIS AS A VERY IMPORTANT SENTENCE. HE SAID THE CHINESE WERE ANXIOUS TO ACHIEVE AS SMOOTH A TRANSITION AS WAS POSSIBLE.

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