

FUTURE OF HONG KONG ADVANCE COPIES 10

(X7)

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



COPY TO:
MR COLES, No. 10 DOWNING ST
Mr Roberts, News D.

65

~~RESIDENT CLERK~~

SECRET

FM PEKING 200705Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

ADVANCE COPY

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1380 OF 20TH DEC 83

IMMEDIATE

INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

MIPT: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: MEETING WITH JI PENGFEI.

ms

COMMENT

1. ALTHOUGH PHYSICALLY FRAIL (HE APPEARED TO HAVE MILD PARKINSONS DISEASE), JI WAS LUCID AND MENTALLY VERY ALERT. HE WAS SHARP AND KNEW THE DETAIL OF THE PROBLEM.
2. ALTHOUGH BECAUSE OF THE DINNER SOME OF THE EXCHANGES WERE A LITTLE DISORDERLY, THEY WERE, ON THE WHOLE, ENCOURAGING. JI ADOPTED NO RIGID POSITION ABOUT BEING UNWILLING TO LISTEN TO OUR IDEAS AND PROPOSALS. THE ARGUMENT THAT THESE WERE INTERNAL CHINESE MATTERS AND NO CONCERN OF OURS WAS NOT ADVANCED. HE SHOWED NO DISPOSITION TO ARGUE AGAINST OUR MAIN THESIS THAT CHANGE UNNECESSARY TO SATISFY CHINESE PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE AVOIDED.
3. ON DETAIL, THERE WERE SOME SIGNS OF A DISPOSITION TO COMPROMISE. ON THE QUESTION OF SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS (ADVISERS), JI INDICATED A POSSIBLE WAY OUT, USING THE DUAL NATIONALITY LOOPHOLE. ON THE ELECTION OF JUDGES, HE PROPOSED AN IDEA WHICH TO US HERE DOES NOT SEEM IMPOSSIBLE.
4. ALL THIS IS ENCOURAGING. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE WERE SOME OF HIS COMMENTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FULL DEMOCRACY IN HONG KONG BEFORE 1997. IT RATHER LOOKS AS IF THE CHINESE DO NOT WISH TO SEE A FULLY DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN PLACE BEFORE THEY ARE IN A POSITION TO OVERSEE IT. THIS, HOWEVER, IS NO REASON NOT TO PURSUE THE THEME, SINCE THE CHINESE WILL BE ON PRETTY WEAK GROUND, HAVING THEMSELVES SAID THAT DEMOCRACY IS THE ULTIMATE AIM IN THE SAR.

CRADOCK

NNNN