

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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TELEGRAM NUMBER 67 OF 13TH JAN84

INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

MIPT. FUTURE OF HONG KONG: MEETING WITH LUO JIAHUAN.

1. LUO ALSO RAISED THE SUBJECT OF WORKING PAPERS. HE REPEATED WITH STRONG EMPHASIS THE CHINESE HOPE THAT WE WOULD SUBMIT THE REMAINING ONES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE EARLIER PAPERS ON WHICH THEY WOULD BE COMMENTING AT THE EIGHTH ROUND HE THOUGHT WE WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THEIR COMMENTS ON THESE; HE THEREFORE HOPED THERE MIGHT BE FURTHER PAPERS FOR THE CHINESE TO COMMENT ON BY THEN. PERHAPS WE COULD PASS SOME OVER IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT WEEK. I SAID THAT THE BEST I THOUGHT WE COULD MANAGE, (AND THAT NOT CERTAINLY) WOULD BE ONE PAPER AT OR BEFORE THE NEXT ROUND. LUO LOOKED WORRIED AND SAID THIS WAS TOO SLOW. THE CHINESE WERE KEEN TO GET AN OVERALL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR VIEWS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THEY NEEDED ALL OUR PAPERS IN ORDER TO DO THIS.

2. I SAID WE UNDERSTOOD VERY WELL THE CHINESE WISH AND HAD NO DESIRE TO HOLD UP THE TALKS. THE TIME TAKEN IN PREPARING THE PAPERS WAS NOT DUE TO ANY RELUCTANCE ON OUR PART TO PUT OUR IDEAS FORWARD, BUT WAS A REFLECTION OF THE AMOUNT OF WORK IT WAS NECESSARY TO PUT INTO THE MORE IMPORTANT PAPERS. WE HAD TO DO OUR WORK CAREFULLY, BUT WITHIN THIS LIMITATION WERE DOING OUR BEST TO BE AS QUICK AS POSSIBLE. LUO SAID THE CHINESE SIDE HOPED THAT THE TALKS COULD BE SPEEDED UP AND SPOKE OF HAVING EVENTUALLY A ROUND EVERY TWO WEEKS. I SAID THAT CHINESE NEW YEAR WOULD PRESUMABLY SLOW THINGS DOWN A BIT; THEREAFTER THE TALKS MIGHT PERHAPS BE SPEEDED UP.

GALSWORTHY