

FUTURE OF HONG KONG - ADVANCE COPIES

11
IMMEDIATE 71

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

COPIES TO:
MR COLES, NO.10 DOWNING ST
MR ROBERTS, NEWS DEPT
SIR PERCY CRADOCK

SECRET

SECRET

DESKBY FCO 280930Z

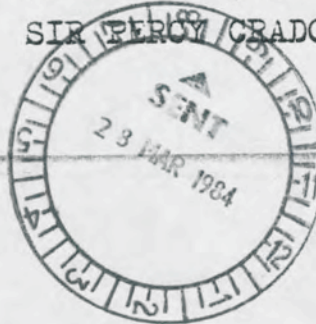
DESKBY HONG KONG 280800Z

FM PEKING 280600Z MAR 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 590 OF 28 MARCH

INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG



MY SECOND IPT: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: INFORMAL DINNER 27 MARCH:
AGREEMENT

1. KE ZAISHUO SAID THAT THE CHINESE SIDE WERE NOT SUGGESTING THAT AS FAR AS THE CHINESE PLAN FOR HONG KONG WAS CONCERNED THE AGREEMENT SHOULD CONTAIN ONLY THE 12 POINTS. HE KNEW THAT WE WOULD PRESS FOR MORE. IT WAS NEVERTHELESS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE SHOULD AVOID THE USE OF INAPPROPRIATE PHRASEOLOGY. BY USING PHRASES SUCH AS 'MAXIMUM AUTONOMY', 'EXCLUSIVE RIGHT', ETC IN OUR WORKING PAPERS WE HAD ALREADY FAILED TO ACHIEVE SOME OF WHAT WE MIGHT HAVE ACHIEVED IF WE HAD SAID THE SAME THING IN A WAY LESS OBJECTIONABLE TO CHINESE LEADERS: EG 'THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT WILL DEVOLVE POWER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION TO DO X'. NOTHING SHOULD BE PHRASED IN TERMS OF ABSOLUTES SINCE HONG KONG WOULD NOT BE INDEPENDENT.
2. KE SAID THAT ANY PROPOSAL THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD SAY THAT THE UK AND CHINA HAD AGREED ON POST 1997 ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. WE SHOULD BE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR ON THIS POINT. POST 1997 ARRANGEMENTS COULD ONLY BE EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF CHINA'S POLICY. WHEN ASKED HOW ALL THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED COULD BE REFLECTED IN AN AGREEMENT, KE SUGGESTED THAT IT COULD BE SET OUT AS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE 12 POINTS WHICH THE BRITISH SIDE COULD 'APPRECIATE' (XIN SHANG, CCC NUMBERS 2946 6339). KE ADDED THAT WE SHOULD BE EXCEPTIONALLY CAREFUL OVER THE WAY IN WHICH SOVEREIGNTY WAS DEALT WITH. SEPARATE CHINESE AND BRITISH STATEMENTS ON THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE NECESSARY.

EVANS