

GRS 295

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SECRET

FROM PEKING 130255Z JUL 84

TO FLASH HONG KONG

TELEGRAM NUMBER 140 90F 13/7/84

*mt*

INFO IMMEDIATE FCO

FOR PS MR LUCE

YOUR TEL NO 647 TO PEKING: FUTURE OF HONG KONG:

JOINT GROUP: SECRETARY OF STATE'S VISIT:

1. I SAW ZHOU NAN AN HOUR AGO. HE ACCEPTED THE DATES PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HIS VISIT TO PEKING (IE FROM THE EVENING OF 27 JULY TO THE AFTERNOON OF 31 JULY)

MY REPORTING TELEGRAM, WHICH WILL ISSUE WITHIN THE HOUR, WILL COVER THE DETAILED POINTS HE BROUGHT UP (EG THE TIMING AND CONTENT OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT ). I TOLD ZHOU THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD BE VISITING HONG KONG BOTH ON HIS WAY TO AND ON HIS RETURN FROM PEKING. HE TOOK WHAT I SAID WITH EQUINIMITY.

2. AT LAST NIGHT'S DINNER FOR THE DELEGATIONS, ZHOU NAN TOLD ME THAT THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF A JOINT GROUP AFTER 1997 WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. HE SAID THAT WE COULD DISMISS THE NOTION FROM OUR MINDS.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, LU PING TOLD MCLAREN THAT IT WAS INDEED A POSSIBILITY THAT THE JOINT GROUP MIGHT CONTINUE TO EXIST FOR A FEW YEARS AFTER 1997. THE NEED FOR BRITAIN AND CHINA TO COOPERATE WOULD CONTINUE AFTER THAT DATE. HE REPEATED THIS

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1 POINT

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POINT TO MCLAREN LATER ON, WHEN HE (LU PING) WAS SUGGESTING THAT ONE WAY OUT OF THE IMPASSE ABOUT THE JOINT GROUP MIGHT BE TO BUILD ON THE CONCEPT OF DIVIDING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD INTO A PERIOD FROM THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT TO 1993 AND A PERIOD FROM 1993 TO 1997.

4. THE SIGNALS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE THEREFORE CONFLICTING. I AM PERSONALLY INCLINED TO ATTACH SIGNIFICANCE TO WHAT LU PING SAID.

EVANS

FUTURE OF HONG KONG  
LIMITED

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