

71
IMMEDIATE 48

PS
PS/PUS
PS/MR LUCE
~~PS/MSOBY~~
ED/ED
ED/ED
PS | LADY YOUNG
SIR W HARDING
RESIDENT CLERK

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

SECRET

FROM PEKING 301230Z JUL 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1670 OF 30/7/84

INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

FOLLOWING FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: SECRETARY OF STATE'S DISCUSSION
WITH CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER: EVENING 29 JULY

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE RAISED INFORMALLY WITH WU AT DINNER LAST NIGHT THE SUBJECT OF PLA TROOPS IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS A SENSITIVE SUBJECT FOR BOTH SIDES: REFERRED TO DENG'S RECENT PUBLIC OUTBURST ON THE SUBJECT: AND ASKED FOR WU'S ADVICE ON HOW THE ISSUE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED DURING HIS VISIT.

2. WU REPLIED THAT IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE DID RAISE THE SUBJECT IN THE FORMAL TALKS, HE WOULD CERTAINLY GET THE STANDARD CHINESE LINE IN REPLY PARTICULARLY IF HE RAISED THE MATTER WITH DENG. THE SECRETARY OF STATE POINTED OUT THAT AFTER 1997 THE HONG KONG SAR WOULD HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, ALTHOUGH WE OF COURSE ACCEPTED THAT THE CHINESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE. IT WOULD BE OPEN TO CHINA TO STATION FORCES JUST ACROSS THE BORDER FROM HONG KONG AFTER 1997. WE WOULD UNDERSTAND IF THEY WISHED TO BRING A FEW TROOPS INTO HONG KONG FOR CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS. BUT WE CONTINUED TO SEE NO (NO) NEED FOR THEM TO BE STATIONED IN HONG KONG. WE HOPED THAT THE CHINESE WOULD EXERCISE GREAT RESTRAINT IN THIS AREA.

27
3. WU ADMITTED THAT THE CHINESE HAD NOT THOUGHT THROUGH THE MODALITIES OF STATIONING FORCES IN HONG KONG. THIS WAS STILL A LONG WAY AHEAD. THE TWO SIDES SHOULD KEEP IN TOUCH IN THE MEANTIME ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS STRENGTHENING THE HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

COMMENT

4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE CONSIDERS THAT THIS IS AS MUCH AS WELL SHALL GET FROM THE CHINESE ON THIS SUBJECT AT THIS TIME AND WILL THEREFORE NOT (NOT) BE RAISING THE ISSUE IN THE FORMAL TALKS DURING HIS VISIT.

EVANS

DWF G 177/30

301628