

SECRET

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GRS 290

SECRET
DESKBY 170730Z BOTH
FROM PEKING 170529Z SEPT 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 2407 OF 17/9/84
INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: PRESS

1. AT THIS MORNING'S MEETING (AT WHICH I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY WILSON, MCLAREN AND MEMBERS OF BOTH GROUPS), AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT DELEGATION LEVEL ON THE TEXTS FOR THE JOINT DECLARATION AND ALL ITS ANNEXES, INCLUDING ANNEX III ON LAND. THE TEXTS WILL NOW BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER EXAMINATION BY EXPERTS AT A MEETING THIS AFTERNOON TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE ETC. AGREEMENT ON THE EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA ON NATIONALITY WILL BE CONFIRMED THIS EVENING.
2. WE DISCUSSED THE LINE TO BE TAKEN WITH THE PRESS. ZHOU NAN AGREED TO MY PROPOSAL THAT FOR THE NEXT 24 HOURS BOTH SIDES WOULD TAKE THE LINE IN ANSWER TO ENQUIRIES THAT WORK ON DOCUMENTS WAS CONTINUING.
3. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE TEXTS OF THE EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA HAVE BEEN AGREED AND THAT THE FINAL CHECKING OF TEXTS IN BOTH LANGUAGES HAS BEEN COMPLETED, I ALSO PROPOSED A LINE WHICH BOTH SIDES MIGHT TAKE FROM TOMORROW ONWARDS. THIS WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT WORK ON THE TEXTS FOR THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN COMPLETED AT DELEGATION LEVEL AND THAT DOCUMENTS WERE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY MINISTERS (OR LEADERS). I DID NOT SUGGEST A PRECISE FORM OF WORDS. ZHOU SAID THAT HE WOULD NEED TO CONSULT HIS LEADERS ABOUT THIS LINE. HE WOULD BE READY TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION WITH ME WHEN WE MET THIS EVENING (HE IS GIVING A DINNER FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALES).

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4. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR CONFIRMATION DESKBY 171000Z, THAT I MAY AGREE TO THE LINE IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE, OR SOMETHING LIKE IT, WHEN I SEE ZHOU THIS EVENING. AS SEEN FROM HERE, IT WILL NEITHER BE POSSIBLE NOR DESIRABLE TO MAINTAIN THE LINE THAT WORK IS CONTINUING HERE AFTER IT HAS IN FACT FINISHED.

EVANS

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LIMITED

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