

FUTURE OF HONG KONG - ADVANCE COPIES

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PS/PUS
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~~MR BOYD~~ BOYD
ED/ED 3
ED/ED
PS | LADY YOUNG
SIR W HARRING
PRESIDENT CLERK

COPIES TO:
POWELL
MR COLES, NO. 10 DOWNING ST
MR ROBERTS, NEWS DEPT
SIR PERCY CRADOCK
SIR E. YOUDE (Rm. K195A)

181300

TYPISTS

SECRET

DD 181300Z

FROM PEKING 181230Z SEP 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2439 OF 18/9/84

INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG



MT

MY TEL NO 2433: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: WHITE PAPER

1. ZHOU NAN HAS ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM AGAIN
TOMORROW MORNING. I SHALL DO SO AT 0930 LOCAL TIME.
IN PASSING THE MESSAGE, THE MFA MADE IT CLEAR THAT ZHOU WISHED
TO TALK ABOUT THE WHITE PAPER. HE WILL NO DOUBT ASK FOR
YOUR RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST THAT THE CHINESE SIDE SHOULD
BY GIVEN THE TEXT OF THE WHITE PAPER WELL IN ADVANCE.

2. ZHOU'S REMARKS THIS MORNING AMOUNTED OF COURSE TO A REQUEST
THAT WE SHOULD GIVE THE CHINESE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK
AMENDMENTS TO NMT THE WHITE PAPER.
THERE IS CLEARLY NO QUESTION OF THIS. BUT IT WILL BE VERY
IMPORTANT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CHINESE SENSIBILITIES WHEN
FINAL DECISIONS ARE TAKEN ABOUT THE CONTENT AND WORDING OF THE
WHITE PAPER, AND THEREBY TO MINIMISE THE RISK THAT THE CHINESE
WILL TAKE PUBLIC ISSUE WITH ANY INTERPRETATIONS OF THE DOCU-
MENTS OR OTHER STATEMENTS WHICH THEY DID NOT LIKE. TO THIS END,
WE SHALL BE LOOKING VERY CAREFULLY AT THE LATEST DRAFT
FOR PART III OF THE WHITE PAPER IN YOUR TELNO 1850 AND WILL
SEND COMMENTS SEPARATELY. IF THERE IS TIME, PLEASE HAVE
A FINAL LOOK AT SECTION I AS WELL.

A FINAL LOOK AT SECTION 1 AS WELL.

3. I RECOMMEND THAT I SHOULD BE AUTHORISED TO TELL ZHOU THAT IT WOULD SIMPLY NOT BE PRACTICABLE TO GIVE THE CHIUN E THE TEXT OF THE WHITE PAPER AORE THAN A SHORT TIME IN ADVANCE. THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS STILL BEING WORKED ON AND WILL NOT VE FINALISED UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE PUBLICATION. BUT, AS I SAID TO HIM THIS MORNING, I WOULD GIVE HIM A FAIRLY FULL ACCOUNT OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PAPER AT THE END OF THIS WEEK.

4. I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT I WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM THE FULL TEXT OF THE PAPER SOME 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF PUBLICATION. I BELIEVE THAT TO DO SO ONLY 6 HOURS IN ADVANCE AS ENVISAGED I YOUR TEL NO 1220 WOULD BE TAKEN AS DISCOURTESY RATHER THAN THE REVERSE SINCE IT WOULD GIVE THE CHINESE BARELY TIME TO READ THE TEXT, LET ALONE MAKE A SUMMARY FOR SUBMISSION TO LEADERS, BEFORE PUBLICATION. I HOPE THAT ON RECONSIDERATION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO AUTHORISE THIS.

5. IF I AM SO AUTHORISED, I SUGGEST THAT I SHOULD TELL ZHOU THAT WE WOULD REAGR D ANY EDITORIAL PUBLISHED IN THE PEOPLE'S DAILY AS A HIGHLY AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTARY AND THAT WE WOULD EXPECT THE CHINESE TO SHOW US THE SAME COURTESY OVER ITS TEXT AS WE WERE EXTENDING TO THEM OVER THE TEXT OF THE WHITE PAPER.

6. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS DESKBY 182330Z

EVANS

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