

GRS 450

SECRET

Pine Minister 61
underlined sentence
only.
EDP

SECRET
DBY 211100Z BOTH
FROM PEKING 211009Z SEPT 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 2482 OF 21/9/84
INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

YOUR TELNO 1240 AND MY TELNO 2436: FUTURE OF HONG KONG:
DATE OF INITIALLING

1. AT MY MEETING WITH HIM TODAY, I ASKED ZHOU NAN WHEN THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WOULD LET US KNOW WHETHER THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROCEED TO INITIALLING. ZHOU SAID THAT HE WOULD HOPEFULLY BE ABLE TO GIVE ME A RESPONSE AT 2.30 PM PEKING TIME TOMORROW. (WE HAVE ARRANGED TO MEET THEN.) I SAID THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT A FINAL DECISION BE TAKEN QUICKLY ON THE INITIALLING DATE, OTHERWISE IT WOULD BECOME RAPIDLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO FINALISE ARRANGEMENTS EITHER FOR 25 OR 26 SEPTEMBER. GIVEN THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAD OCCURRED OVER THE WHITE PAPER IN RECENT DAYS, INITIALLING ON 25 SEPTEMBER WAS ALREADY VERY DIFFICULT FOR US. COULD THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT PLEASE AGREE TO 26 SEPTEMBER?

2. ZHOU SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF BRITISH DIFFICULTIES OVER 25 SEPTEMBER, THE CHINESE WERE PREPARED TO AGREE TO 26 SEPTEMBER. I SAID THAT I WAS GRATEFUL FOR THIS AND WAS SURE THAT MY MINISTERS WOULD BE TOO.

3. ZHOU WENT ON TO SAY THAT, ON THE HYPOTHETICAL BASIS THAT HE OBTAINED THE RIGHT SIGNAL BY 2.30 PM TOMORROW, THE CHINESE SIDE COULD AGREE THAT THE FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT SHOULD BE ISSUED SIMULTANEOUSLY BY THE MFA AND THE FCO AT 7.00 PM PEKING TIME TOMORROW EVENING:

"THE SECOND PHASE OF THE SINO-BRITISH TALKS ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG, WHICH BEGAN IN JULY 1983, HAS NOW BEEN CONCLUDED. THERE WILL THEREFORE BE NO FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS. THE TEXT OF A JOINT DECLARATION ON THE QUESTION OF HONG KONG WILL BE INITIALLED BY THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS AT 1000 AM ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1984 IN BEIJING."

SECRET

14.

SECRET

4. I SAID THAT THIS APPEARED TO BE ACCEPTABLE. I WOULD CONFIRM IT TOMORROW AND WE WOULD ALSO CONFIRM ZHOU'S PROPOSAL THAT IT BE RELEASED AT 7 PM PEKING TIME BY THE CHINESE MFA AND BY THE FCO. WE AGREED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD NOT MAKE A SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT WOULD GIVE THE TEXT OUT IN RESPONSE TO ENQUIRIES.

RECOMMENDATION

5. I RECOMMEND THAT I CONFIRM OUR AGREEMENT TO INITIALLY TAKING PLACE AT 1000 AM PEKING TIME ON 26 SEPTEMBER AND TO THE RELEASE OF THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT ABOVE AT 7 PM PEKING TIME TOMORROW.

6. GRATEFUL FOR INSTRUCTIONS DESKBY 212330Z.

EVANS

FUTURE OF HONG KONG
LIMITED

HD/HKD
HD/FED
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/PUSD
DEP HD/PUSD
RESEARCH D (MR WALKER)
LEGAL ADVISERS(SIR J FREELAND)
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR W HARDING
SIR C TICKELL
MR GOODALL
MR DEREK THOMAS
MR. Boyd

COPIES TO:-
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
PS/LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
PS/HOME SECRETARY
PS/CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER
PS/LORD PRIVY SEAL
PS/SECRETARY FOR TRADE & INDUSTRY

COPIES TO:- (VIA ADR)
MR ROBERTS NEWS DEPT
MR BICKFORD LEGAL ADVISERS
MR FIFOOT LEGAL ADVISERS
MR POWELL NO 10 DOWNING ST.
MR INGHAM NO 10 DOWNING ST.
MR MARTIN ASSESSMENTS STAFF CABINET OFFIC
MR CARTLEDGE CABINET OFFICE
MR COLVIN CABINET OFFICE
PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
PS/ATTORNEY GENERAL
SIR P CRADOCK ROOM K195
SIR P CRADOCK NO 10 DOWNING ST.

²
SECRET