

RESTRICTED

FM PEKING

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELNO 1393

OF 210355Z JULY 89

INFO PRIORITY HONG KONG, JSIS HONG KONG, CANBERRA, ACTOR, MODUK  
INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, UKREP BRUSSELS, PARIS  
INFO PRIORITY UKMIS NEW YORK, TOKYO

SIC U2B

MODUK FOR SEC (O)(C).

CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY.

## SUMMARY.

1. BEHIND RESOLUTE WORDS, HINTS OF CHINESE WORRY OVER WESTERN SANCTIONS AND DIFFICULTY IN RETALIATING. EFFORTS TO REBUILD RELATIONS WITH BORDER-LINE COUNTRIES.

## DETAIL.

2. WHEN THE MFA BRIEFED AFRICAN AMBASSADORS ON 20 JULY (MY TELNO 1391 NOT TO ALL) THEY STRONGLY CRITICISED THE U S, UK AND FRANCE AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHO WERE INTERFERING WITH AND ACTING AGAINST CHINA. (AN MFA SPOKEWOMAN MADE CLEAR THE SAME DAY THAT IN CHINA'S VIEW EVEN THE EXPRESSION OF AN OPINION ON EVENTS HERE CAN CONSTITUTE 'INTERFERENCE'). THEY INSISTED THAT SUCH COUNTRIES WOULD ONLY HURT THEMSELVES AND CHINA WOULD NEVER GIVE IN. ACCORDING TO OUR AFRICAN CONTACTS, HOWEVER, THEY ALSO:

- ADMITTED THAT THE EFFECTS OF SOME SANCTIONS, ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS, WERE CAUSING THEM ANXIETY:
- MADE PRETTY CLEAR THAT THEY WERE NOT THINKING OF ANY CONCRETE ACTION IN RETALIATION. (CF MY TELNO 1384 ON THE CHINESE RESPONSE TO THE LATEST EC DEMARCHE).

3. THE DEFIANT STRAIN IN CHINESE RESPONSES WAS CONTINUED WITH A FURTHER DEMARCHE BY THE MFA TO THE U S AMBASSADOR ON 20 JULY, COMPLAINING ABOUT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE AMENDMENTS OF 29 JUNE AND 14 JULY RESPECTIVELY ON SANCTIONS

AGAINST CHINA. THE ELEMENT OF ANXIETY WAS BETRAYED BY THE MFA SPOKESWOMAN'S REMARK ON 20 JULY THAT IT WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIABLE TO 'STIR UP A BOYCOTT' OF NEXT YEAR'S ASIAN GAMES IN PEKING.

4. WE UNDERSTAND FROM ONE OF THE EMBASSIES INVOLVED THAT THE CHINESE HAVE DEFINED A CATEGORY OF COUNTRIES WHO HAVE CRITICISED THE MAY/JUNE EVENTS BUT NOT TAKEN ANY CONCRETE MEASURES: AND ARE NOW DISCREETLY APPROACHING THESE COUNTRIES TO SEE IF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS POSTPONED DURING THE 'EVENTS' (IN SOME CASES BY THE CHINESE THEMSELVES) COULD BE REINSTATED SOON. THE MOTIVE IS OBVIOUS AND THE ANSWER MAY BE A LEMON.

BAILES.

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