

RESTRICTED  
FM PEKING  
TO IMMEDIATE F C O  
TELNO 1535  
OF 120505Z SEPTEMBER 91  
INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

VISIT TO CHINA BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MRS. MARGARET THATCHER MP,  
10-12 SEPTEMBER.

1. MRS. THATCHER LEFT PEKING FOR HONG KONG THIS MORNING (12 SEPTEMBER) AFTER A 36-HOUR VISIT AT THE INVITATION OF THE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (PIFA). SHE HAD MEETINGS WITH JIANG ZEMIN, LI PENG, QIAN QICHEN, AND RONG YIREN (PRESIDENT OF CTIC AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS). RONG GAVE HER LUNCH AT HIS FAMILY HOME. JIANG ZEMIN ENTERTAINED HER TO DINNER AFTER THEIR EARLY EVENING MEETING. MRS. THATCHER ALSO ASKED FOR A MEETING WITH ZHAO ZIYANG BUT WAS TOLD BY LI PENG AND OTHERS THAT THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE.

2. MRS. THATCHER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MARK THATCHER, HER PERSONAL SECRETARY AND DETECTIVES. JOHN GERSON ATTENDED HER MEETINGS AS RECORD TAKER. I WAS AT THE AIRPORT FOR HER ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE: HAD A BRIEF MEETING WITH HER ON THE MORNING OF 11 SEPTEMBER: AND ATTENDED JIANG ZEMIN'S BANQUET WITH MY WIFE. I WAS NOT PRESENT FOR ANY OF HER FORMAL MEETINGS.

3. I UNDERSTAND THAT MRS. THATCHER'S DISCUSSIONS RANGED WIDELY, COVERING THE SITUATION IN THE SOVIET UNION, HONG KONG, THE PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORM IN CHINA, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT MRS. THATCHER SPOKE STRONGLY ON THE LATTER SUBJECTS AND THAT THERE WERE SOME ANIMATED EXCHANGES.

4. MRS. THATCHER DID NOT MEET THE PRESS WHILE IN CHINA THOUGH THERE WERE THE USUAL REPORTERS AND CAMERAS PRESENT AT THE BEGINNING OF HER MEETINGS. SHE WILL HOWEVER BE GIVING SOME INTERVIEWS AND PERHAPS A PRESS CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG. SHE TOLD ME AT THE AIRPORT ON DEPARTURE THAT SHE HAD AGREED WITH LI PENG THAT SHE WOULD NOT GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT THEIR DISCUSSIONS BUT WOULD MENTION THE SUBJECTS COVERED, INCLUDING HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WOULD SAY THAT THE TALKS WERE HELD IN A VERY FRANK AND FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

5. TODAY'S PEOPLE'S DAILY GIVES FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO THE MEETINGS WITH JIANG ZEMIN AND LI PENG, BUT WITH LITTLE INDICATION AS TO THE CONTENT OF HER DISCUSSIONS APART FROM HONG KONG. THE MEETINGS WERE ALSO REPORTED ON THE TELEVISION NEWS ON 11 SEPTEMBER.

MCLAREN.

YYYY

DISTRIBUTION

168

MAIN 157

.CHINA POLITICAL  
LIMITED  
FED  
LEGAL ADVISERS  
PUSD  
INFO D  
CONSULAR D  
CRD  
ECD(E)  
ECONOMIC ADVISERS  
ERD  
HKD  
JOINT DIRECTORATE  
NEWS D  
PLANNERS  
RAD  
SAD  
SEAD

SOVIET D  
UND  
PS  
PS/MRS CHALKER  
PS/LORD CAITHNESS  
PS/MR LENNOX-BOYD  
PS/PUS  
MR LANKESTER  
MR P J WESTON  
CHIEF CLERK  
SIR J COLES  
MR AINSCOW  
MISS SPENCER  
MR MILES  
MR GORE-BOOTH  
MR BURNS  
MR SLATER  
MR MANNING

ADDITIONAL 11

CHINA POLITICAL

NNNN