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AMENDED DISTRIBUTION 15 OCTOBER 1984

FROM PEKING 150847Z OCT 84

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 2596 OF 15 OCTOBER

INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

Prime Minister
Are the answers to
the questions:
A - YES
B - NOT THIS TIME
C - 48 hours. ?

CDP
16/K.

YOUR TELNO 1322: **FUTURE OF HONG KONG: SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT.**

1. I CALLED ON ZHOU NAN TODAY AND SPOKE AS INSTRUCTED IN PARAGRAPH 4 OF TUR. I SAID THAT YOU WOULD ACCOMPANY THE PRIME MINISTER. ON TIMING OF THE VISIT, I ADDED WHEN MAKING POINT (B) OF PARAGRAPH 4 THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD NOT TAKE A FINAL DECISION UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER.

2. ZHOU SAID THAT HE WOULD CONVEY WHAT I HAD SAID TO HIS LEADERS. THE FACT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD DECIDED PERSONALLY TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT SHOWED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ATTACHED TO THE HONG KONG QUESTION. IT WAS VERY GOOD NEWS AND, ZHOU SAID, WOULD BE GREATLY WELCOMED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. ZHOU THEN ASKED THREE QUESTIONS:

- (A) WOULD THE PRIME MINISTER WISH TO DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS AND MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS OF COMMON CONCERN WITH CHINESE LEADERS IN ADDITION TO SIGNING THE AGREEMENT?
- (B) WOULD SHE WANT TO TRAVEL TO OTHER PARTS OF CHINA?
- (C) HOW LONG DID SHE WISH TO STAY IN CHINA?

3. I SAID THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I BELIEVED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD WISH TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH CHINESE LEADERS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AND ON MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS OF COMMON CONCERN. I DID NOT KNOW WHETHER SHE WOULD WISH TO TRAVEL TO OTHER PARTS OF CHINA. SHE HAD OF COURSE PAID TWO EARLIER VISITS, DURING WHICH SHE HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SOMETHING OF THE COUNTRY. SHE WOULD BE GLAD TO KNOW ABOUT ANY CONSIDERATIONS OF TIMING WHICH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, AND IN PARTICULAR ZHAO ZHYANG, MIGHT WANT TO PUT TO HER.

4. ON TIMING ZHOU SAID THAT HE WOULD LET ME KNOW THE PREFERENCES OF ZHAO. HE ASKED WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT WOULD BE COMBINED WITH VISITS TO SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAD EARLIER BEEN POSTPONED. I SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT YET DECIDED.

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15.

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5. ZHOU ASKED WHEN PARLIAMENT WOULD BE IN SESSION AND WHEN THE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE DEBATED. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT PARLIAMENT WOULD BE IN SESSION FROM ABOUT 22 OCTOBER TO ABOUT 14 DECEMBER. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, NO DATES HAD YET BEEN FIXED FOR THE DEBATES IN THE TWO HOUSES.

6. WE CONCLUDED WITH A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE RECEPTION SO FAR GIVEN TO THE AGREEMENT. ZHOU SAID THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WAS GRATIFIED THAT SECTIONS AROUND THE WORLD (INCLUDING THE REACTIONS OF PEOPLE IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN HONG KONG) HAD BEEN FAVOURABLE.

EVANS

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

FUTURE OF HONG KONG
LIMITED

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HD/FED
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/PUSD
DEP HD/PUSD
RESEARCH D (MR WALKER)
PS
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