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China
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TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 788 OF 10 SEPTEMBER 79

INFO PRIORITY HONG KONG, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW, TOKYO

ROUTINE CANBERRA, UKDEL NATO

INFO SAVING ULAN BATOR

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and

SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. IN THE COURSE OF A TALK WITH MR HEATH ON 7 SEPTEMBER, HUA GUOFENG SAID SINO/SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN IN MOSCOW IN MID-SEPTEMBER. THE SOVIET UNION WAS READY TO ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF OPPOSING HEGEMONISM. IN ORDER TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THIS, HOWEVER, THE CHINESE WERE REQUIRING THAT THE RUSSIANS AGREE TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES FROM THE NORTHERN BORDER AND FROM MONGOLIA, REDUCE THE STRENGTH OF THOSE FORCES TO THE LEVEL IN THE PERIOD OF KHRUSCHEV AND THAT NEITHER SIDE SHOULD ASSIST AGGRESSION AGAINST A THIRD COUNTRY.

2. ASKED WHETHER A SOVIET UNDERTAKING TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM THE NORTHERN BORDER WOULD NOT SUFFICE, HUA INDICATED IT WOULD NOT AND REFERRED TO CONTINUING SOVIET SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM.

3. MR HEATH COMMENTED THAT THESE CONDITIONS WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE RUSSIANS TO SATISFY BUT SUGGESTED ONE INDUCEMENT FOR SOVIET CONCESSIONS WOULD BE THE HOPE THAT THEY COULD WEAN CHINA AWAY WITH HER PRESENT GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND WESTERN EUROPE.

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/4.HUA REPLIED

4. HUA REPLIED THAT THE NATURE OF SOCIALIST IMPERIALISM WAS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE. THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT AND PROLONGED. THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BOUNDARY HAD ALREADY TAKEN 10 YEARS WITHOUT RESULT. THE CHINESE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THEIR RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND HIS COMING VISIT REFLECTED THIS.

5. RECORD FOLLOWS BY BAG.

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