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FM HONG KONG 301045Z APR 85
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 819 OF 30 APRIL

1106/30

FOLLOWING PERSONAL FOR PUS FROM GOVERNOR.

SIR S.Y. CHUNG

1. AS AGREED WHEN I WAS IN LONDON, I TALKED TO SIR S.Y. CHUNG OVER THE WEEKEND ABOUT HIS FUTURE AS SENIOR UNOFFICIAL IN EXCO.
2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE USUAL CUSTOM I FIRST TOLD HIM OF MY PLANS FOR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF BOTH EXCO AND LEGCO. I ALSO TOLD HIM OF MY INTENTION TO MAKE MISS DUNN THE SENIOR MEMBER OF LEGCO: AND TO MAKE A FURTHER APPOINTMENT FROM LEGCO TO EXCO AFTER THE ELECTIONS, AS SOON AS SOME OTHER POTENTIALLY INFLUENTIAL MEMBER EMERGED.
3. WE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE LIKELY CHANGES IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS IN THE POLITICAL POWER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EXCO AND LEGCO AND THE MORE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE TWO COUNCILS: THE LIKELY ATTITUDES OF THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS: AND THE PROBABILITY THAT IN A FEW YEARS TIME THEY WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN LEADERS RATHER THAN CONTINUE WITH THE PRESENT SYSTEM BASED ON SENIORITY. HE SHARED MY ANALYSIS IN GENERAL BUT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE COULD SURVIVE THE NEXT THREE YEARS BY THE GOVERNOR GIVING NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE NEW MEMBERS TO CHANGE THE EXCO/LEGCO/UMELCO LEADERSHIP BEFORE THE 1988 ELECTIONS.

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4. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS I ASKED HIM HOW HE FELT ABOUT HIS OWN FUTURE. (FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER I MADE CLEAR THAT I WAS NOT ASKING HIM TO GO). HE SAID THAT HE WAS STILL VERY MUCH IN TWO MINDS. HE WAS GETTING ON IN YEARS AND, AS IN SPORT, THERE WAS SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR GOING OUT AT THE PEAK RATHER THAN LETTING THAT MOMENT PASS AND LEAVING ON A DOWN-BEAT. EVEN IF HE STAYED ON THIS TIME IT WOULD HAVE TO BE HIS LAST TERM. ON THE OTHER HAND HE FELT HE COULD STILL OFFER THE YOUNGER MEMBERS USEFUL ADVICE AND THERE WOULD BE A NEED FOR A STRONG APPOINTED MEMBERSHIP TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN UMEICO WHEN THE NEWER MEMBERS JOINED. HE ASKED FOR SOME TIME TO THINK THINGS OVER. HE WOULD NEED TO REFLECT ON WHAT VIEW OTHER UMEICO MEMBERS MIGHT TAKE, AND WHETHER THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE HIM THEIR SUPPORT.
5. HE DID NOT SEEK TO TAKE THE DISCUSSION ANY FURTHER WHEN I SAW HIM AGAIN AT EXCO TODAY. FROM WHAT HE SAID I DO NOT EXPECT HIM TO RESPOND FURTHER UNTIL AFTER MY RETURN FROM MY CHINA TRIP ON MAY 11.
6. IN THE MEANTIME I HAVE TOLD SIR ROGER LOBO AND MR F.W. LI OF MY INTENTION TO LET THEIR RETIREMENTS TAKE EFFECT THIS YEAR. THE FIRST EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING BUT I SUSPECT WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED. MR LI WAS CONTENT AND INDEED ANXIOUS TO RETIRE.
7. I HAVE ALSO BEGUN THE PROCESS OF SEEING THOSE MEMBERS OF LEGCO WHO WILL BE RETIRED THIS YEAR BEGINNING WITH THE SENIOR MEMBERS.
8. I WILL REPORT FURTHER IN DUE COURSE.

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