

0931

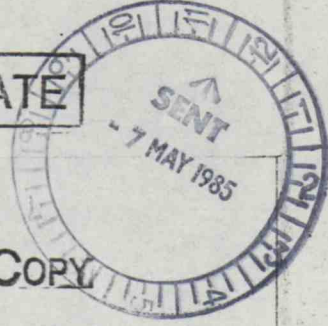
ADVANCE COPIES
HONG KONG AGREEMENT

4213

PS
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR WILSON
DR WILSON
ED/ HKD
ED/ FED
RESIDENT CLERK

SIR P. CRADOCK, NO. 10 DOWNING ST
MR. FLEET
MR. BURROWS, LEGAL ADVISERS
MR ROBERTS, NEWS DEPT

IMMEDIATE



GRS 700

CONFIDENTIAL
DESKBY BOTH 071000Z
FROM PEKING 070050Z MAY 85
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 685 OF 7/5/85
INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

ADVANCE COPY

MY TELEGRAM NO 673 AND HONG KONG TELEGRAM NO 860: HONG KONG AGREEMENT: JOINT LIAISON GROUP (JLG)

1. ZHOU APPEARED TO BE GENUINELY TAKEN ABACK BY WHAT I SAID TO HIM. IT EMERGED AT ONCE THAT OUR PROPOSAL THAT HO MIGHT BE GRANTED A 'BRITISH' PASSPORT WAS UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE THIS WOULD ENTAIL NO CHANGE IN HO'S NATIONALITY STATUS (REPEAT STATUS).

2. WE HAVE NOTHING TO SHOW THAT ZHOU HAD EVER BEFORE MADE CHINESE ACCEPTANCE OF CHAN AS A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM FOR THE LAND COMMISSION CONDITIONAL UPON OUR WITHDRAWING HO'S NAME FROM OUR LIST OF DESIGNATED MEMBERS OF THE JLG. BUT ZHOU WAS NOT SPEAKING OFF THE CUFF WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT CHAN. HE WAS USING A PRINTED TEXT. I SUSPECT, THEREFORE, THAT THE CHINESE HAD DECIDED IN ADVANCE TO ADD THIS CONDITION IF OUR RESPONSE ABOUT HO TURNED OUT TO BE SATISFACTORY IN THEIR EYES.

3. WE SEEM TO HAVE REACHED THE POINT WHERE THE EFFECTIVE CHOICE FOR US LIES BETWEEN WITHDRAWING HO AS ONE OF THE DESIGNATED MEMBERS OF THE JLG AND GOING FOR THE SECOND OPTION IN YOUR TELEGRAM NO 579. THE FIRST OF THESE TWO COURSES IS PRESUMABLY UNACCEPTABLE. AT THIS STAGE IN THE ARGUMENT, I WOULD CERTAINLY NOT WISH TO RECOMMEND IT, IF ONLY BECAUSE IT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR INSISTENCE UPON OUR UNFETTERED RIGHT TO DESIGNATE OUR MEMBERS OF THE JLG.

e. full British citizenship

4. IN PSITE OF ZHOU'S STATEMENT THAT OUR MEMBERS SHOULD NOT BE HONG KONG CHINESE (PARAGRAPH 3 OF MY TUR), I THINK THAT THE SECOND OPTION IN YOUR TUR WOULD STAND A REAL CHANCE OF PROVING ACCEPTABLE TO THE CHINESE. FOR THEM TO REJECT IT WOULD ENTAIL GOING BACK ON MUCH THAT THEY HAVE SAID TO US IN THE PAST: AND THERE MUST BE VERY CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON THEM TO GET THE PROBLEM SETTLED SOON. THEY WANT ZHAO ZIYANG'S VISIT TO BRITAIN TO BE A SUCCESS (THEY KEEP ON SAYING TO VISITORS AND TO ME HOW MUCH IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO IT) AND IT FOLLOWS THAT THEY WOULD WANT ENTRY INTO FORCE TO BE IN THE BAG BEFORE ZHAO ZIYANG LEAVES CHINA. (IN THIS CONNECTION, INCIDENTALLY, I THINK THAT HE WILL LEAVE PEKING ON 31 MAY AT THE LATEST.)

5. ZHOU WAS AT SOME PAINS TO EMPHASISE THAT THE CHINESE POSITION ABOUT THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF BDTCS AS MEMBERS OF THE JLG COULD CHANGE (PARAGRAPH 10 OF MY TUR). HE WAS MORE EXPLICIT ABOUT

POSITION ABOUT THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF BDTCS AS MEMBERS OF THE JLG
COULD CHANGE (PARAGRAPH 10 OF MY TUR). HE WAS MORE EXPLICIT ABOUT
THIS THAN HE HAD BEEN ON ANY EARLIER OCCASION. WHAT HE SAID ON
3 APRIL WAS THAT, " BECAUSE OF THE GROUP'S HIGHLY POLITICAL NATURE,
PARTICULARLY IN THE EARLY STAGES, CHINA ABSOLUTELY COULD NOT AGREE TO
A BDTC AS A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH TEAM" (MY TELEGRAM NO 466,
PARAGRAPH 6). THIS GIVES ME SOME GROUND FOR HOPING THAT WE SHOULD
NOT NECESSARILY FACE SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES OVER DESIGNATION OF A
BDTC AS A JLG MEMBER IN A FEW YEARS TIME IF THE PROBLEM OF HO'S
MEMBERSHIP COULD BE OVERCOME.

6. UNLESS YOU INSTRUCT ME OTHERWISE, I SHALL PRESS ZHOU FOR A
~~REPLY TO MY TELEGRAM NO 466. I WILL BE GLAD TO RECEIVE HIS ANSWER AT THE
BASE OF THE BDTCS. ADDITIONAL~~
HE SAID TO ME THEN AND THAT THE CHINESE SIDE HOPE THAT WE SHALL
SOON COME FORWARD WITH FRESH IDEAS.

EVANS

NNNN

MORE CONSIDERED RESPONSE TO WHAT HE SAID TO ME YESTERDAY. I BELIEVE,
HOWEVER, THAT HIS ANSWER WILL BE THAT HE HAS NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT
HE SAID ET SAID ETC K

ADVANCE COPY