

ADVANCE COPIES

2213

HONG KONG AGREEMENT

PS

PS/MR LUCE

PS/PUS
SIA W HARDING
DR WILSON

ED/ HKD

ED/ FED

RESIDENT CLERK

SIR P. CRADOCK, NO. 10 DOWNING ST

MR. FIFoot
MR BURROWS, LEGAL ADVISERS

MR ROBERTS, NEWS DEPT

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY FCO 110900Z

DESKBY H K 110400Z

FROM PEKING 110248Z MAY 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 706 OF 11/5/85

INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

ADVANCE COPY.

IMMEDIATE

MY TELNO 419 AND YOUR TELNO 704: HONG KONG AGREEMENT;
JOINT LIAISON GROUP

1. I HAD A FIVE MINUTE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH ZHOU NAN THIS MORNING.
2. WHEN I ASKED ZHOU WHETHER HE HAD GIVEN FURTHER THOUGHT TO THE PROPOSAL WHICH I HAD PUT TO HIM ON 6 MAY, HE SAID THAT HE HAD REPORTED THIS PROPOSAL TO "SOME OF MY LEADERS". HE COULD TELL ME THAT THE RESPONSE WHICH HE HAD GIVEN ME THEN SHOULD BE REGARDED AS THE FORMAL CHINESE RESPONSE. THE POINT WHICH WAS OBJECTIONABLE IN OUR PROPOSAL WAS THAT IT WOULD ENTAIL A CHANGE IN THE CHARACTER OF HO'S PASSPORT, BUT NOT A CHANGE IN HIS NATIONALITY STATUS. IF THE BRITISH SIDE WERE TO PROPOSE THAT HO SHOULD BECOME A "FORMAL BRITISH NATIONAL", THIS WOULD BE A DIFFERENT MATTER. IT WOULD LIKEWISE BE A DIFFERENT MATTER IF THE BRITISH SIDE WERE TO PROPOSE THAT HO SHOULD BE AN ADVISER TO THE BRITISH SIDE IN THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP.
3. ZHOU ADDED THAT HE WAS WORRIED BY THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN US. HE HOPED, THEREFORE, THAT I WOULD HAVE SOMETHING FRESH TO SAY TO HIM SOON, PREFERABLY AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK.
4. I EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AND ANXIETY THAT DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN US ON THIS ISSUE LOOKED LIKELY TO UNDERMINE THE FAVOURABLE IMPACT OF THE JOINT DECLARATION. ZHOU SAID THAT HE SHARED ME DISAPPOINTMENT. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS WORRIED BY VERY DETAILED LEAKS ABOUT THE DISPUTE IN THE HONG KONG PRESS. I SAID THAT WE DID NOT WELCOME LEAKS EITHER.

EVANS

nl Koney ~~the~~ future