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FM HONG KONG 240910Z MAY 85
TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 994 OF 24 MAY

PERSONAL FOR PUS FROM GOVERNOR

MY TELNO 819: HONG KONG EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: SIR S Y CHUNG

1. SIR S Y CHUNG CAME TO SEE ME YESTERDAY EVENING ABOUT HIS FUTURE. HE THANKED ME FOR GIVING HIM A FREE CHOICE ON WHETHER OR NOT HE SHOULD STAY ON AND FOR THE TIME I HAD ALLOWED HIM TO COME TO A CONCLUSION. SINCE I HAD LAST SEEN HIM, HE HAD HAD A MEDICAL CHECK UP TO ENSURE THAT HE WAS STILL FULLY FIT, AND HAD CONSULTED SOME OF HIS EXCO AND LEGCO COLLEAGUES. AFTER MUCH THOUGHT HE HAD DECIDED TO TELL ME THAT IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APPROVED A RECOMMENDATION THAT HE SHOULD STAY ON EXCO HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT.
2. AS REGARDS THE TIME OF HIS APPOINTMENT HE HAD ALSO HAD A WORD WITH SOME OF HIS COLLEAGUES WHO HAD POINTED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REVIEW IN 1987. IT WAS THEIR THOUGHT THAT HE SHOULD BE THERE FOR THE COMPLETION OF THAT REVIEW AND IT WOULD THEREFORE BE BEST FOR HIM TO STAY THE FULL 3 YEARS.
3. I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD NOW NEED TO PUT A RECOMMENDATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON HIS APPOINTMENT AND ON THE FUTURE COMPOSITION OF EXCO AS A WHOLE.

4. IN ORDER.

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4. IN ORDER THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING I ALSO SPOKE TO HIM AGAIN ABOUT THE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH WE SHALL BE OPERATING WHEN THE NEW LEGCO COMES INTO EXISTENCE IN NOVEMBER. I MADE CLEAR THAT MISS DUNN, AS THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER IN LEGCO, WOULD HAVE TO OCCUPY A POSITION OF MUCH GREATER AUTHORITY THAN SIR ROGER LOBO HAS OCCUPIED IN RECENT YEARS. IF SHE WAS TO BE SUCCESSFUL AS A LEADER IN THE NEW LEGCO THEN SHE WOULD HAVE TO BE SEEN TO BE A PERSON WITH WHOM THE ADMINISTRATION DEALT ON LEGCO ISSUES. IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DEAL SO MUCH IN THE FUTURE ON A UMELCO BASIS SINCE THE NEW LEGCO WOULD HAVE A MUCH MORE DISTINCT AND INDIVIDUAL PERSONALITY IN ITS OWN RIGHT. SIR S Y PROFESSED TO UNDERSTAND THIS BUT SAID THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES ON EXCO WOULD STILL BE THERE TO ACT AS "SENIOR STATESMEN".

5. I HAVE ALSO SEEN MISS DUNN AND TALKED TO HER. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT, INDEPENDENTLY, SHE SHARES THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF SIR S Y HAD CHOSEN THE OTHER WAY BUT SHE IS PREPARED TO CARRY ON NEVERTHELESS. I HAVE ASSURED HER THAT SHE WILL HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT IN HER LEADERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND THAT WE WILL DEAL WITH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MATTERS THROUGH HER AND NOT INDIRECTLY THROUGH SIR S Y.

6. MY FORMAL RECOMMENDATION ON THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF SIR S Y AND OTHER MEMBERS OF EXCO FOLLOWS SEPARATELY.

YOUDE

LIMITED

HO/HKS

PS/PUS

SIR W. HARDING

MR WILSON

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