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FM HONG KONG 090750Z NOV 82
TO PRIORITY F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1290 OF 9 NOVEMBER
INFO PRIORITY PEKING

PEKING TELNO 724 OF 8 NOVEMBER: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: PRESS COMMENT

THE PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL WAS PROMINENTLY REPORTED IN THE COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST PRESS HERE. THE COMMUNIST NEW EVENING POST AND WEN WEI PO HIGHLIGHTED REFERENCES IN THE EDITORIAL TO LEAVING THE SOCIAL SYSTEMS OF HONG KONG, MACAU AND TAIWAN UNCHANGED AND PLAYED DOWN THE DISCUSSION OF CLASS STRUGGLE. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN THE INDEPENDENT CHINESE LANGUAGE PRESS WAS DIVIDED. THE MING DAO REFERRED TO PAST CAMPAIGNS IN CHINA AGAINST CAPITALISTS WITHIN THE PARTY AND SUGGESTED THAT THE EDITORIAL WAS INTENDED TO REMIND PEOPLE IN CHINA THAT MAO'S WAYS HAD BEEN REJECTED. THE FINANCIAL DAILY THOUGHT IT MEANT THAT CHINA WOULD WISH TO TAKE TOUGH ACTION AGAINST PRO-KMT ELEMENTS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS REGARDED AS UNDESIRABLE WHEN IT RECOVERED SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG. APART FROM ASSERTING THE PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIALS WERE GENERALLY AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENTS, THE INDEPENDENT PRESS DID NOT VENTURE ANY OPINION ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE EDITORIAL REVEALED CHINA'S INTENTIONS.

YOUDE

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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HD/FED
HD/PLANNING STAFF
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