

RESTRICTED

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OO HONG KONG (DESKBY 130100Z)  
GRS 208  
RESTRICTED  
DESKBY 130100Z  
FROM FCO 121645Z NOV 82  
TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 952 OF 12 NOVEMBER  
AND TO PRIORITY PEKING  
PQ: FUTURE OF HONG KONG

1. MR MARTIN ANNERY HAS TABLED FOLLOWING QUESTION FOR ORAL ANSWER ON 24 NOVEMBER : 'TO ASK THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, WHETHER, FOLLOWING THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO HONG KONG, ANY DECISIONS HAVE BEEN ARRIVED AT REGARDING THE ULTIMATE TRANSFER OF THE COLONY TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.'
2. WE PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING ANSWER: 'DURING HER RECENT VISIT TO CHINA MY RIGHT HON. FRIEND THE PRIME MINISTER AND CHINESE LEADERS AGREED THAT TALKS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG SHOULD BE ENTERED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS FOLLOWING THE VISIT, WITH THE COMMON AIM OF MAINTAINING THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG. MEETINGS IN PEKING TO FOLLOW UP THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT HAVE BEGUN, BUT THEIR CONTENT MUST, OF COURSE, REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.'
3. THE QUESTION MAY BE REACHED. WE PROPOSE TO USE THE SUPPLEMENTARIES YOU HAVE ALREADY SEEN. (PARA 1, MYTEL NO 937)
4. GRATEFUL FOR COMMENTS DESKBY 160900Z.

PYM

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