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DESKBY 200930

DEKSBY 200630Z

FM PEKING 200445Z NOV 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 773 OF 20/11/82

REPEATED FOR INFO TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

A.S.C. 2/11
h-a.

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

1. REUTERS HAVE TOLD US THAT THE 8 O'CLOCK NEWS BULLETIN ON RADIO PEKING LAST NIGHT 19 NOVEMBER CARRIED A REPORT ABOUT HU YAOBANG'S RECEPTION OF GENERAL PREM. REUTERS HAVE A TAPE OF THE BROADCAST. HU WAS SAID TO HAVE TOLD PREM THAT CHINA'S MAIN POLICIES (GUOCE) WERE FIRST MODERNISATION, SECOND 'TO UNITE OUR COUNTRY, TO BRING TAIWAN BACK TO THE MOTHERLAND AND TO TAKE BACK HONG KONG'' AND THIRD TO OPPOSE AGGRESSION AND SAFEGUARD WORLD PEACE. THE CHINESE FOR THE SECOND POINT IS AS FOLLOWS:

DIER YAO BA WOMENDE GUOJIA TONGYI QILAI, SHI TAIWAN HUIGUI ZUGUO, SHOUHUI XIANGGANG.

2. REUTERS ARE REPORTING THIS. WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THEM THAT THE FORMULATION IS NOT VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT USED BY ZHAO ZIYANG DURING MRS THATCHER'S VISIT WHEN HE SAID THAT THEY WOULD RECOVER SOVEREIGNTY OVER HONG KONG. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THEY LINK THE STORY TO ZHAO'S STATEMENT, SO THAT IT DOES NOT APPEAR AS A MAJOR NEW CHINESE STATEMENT. WE BELIEVE THEY WILL DO THIS.

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3. THE THREE TASKS ARE FAMILIAR ONES, THOUGH WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A SPECIFIC REFERENCE HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS CONTEXT TO RECOVERING HONG KONG. IT IS OF COURSE UNHELPFUL, BUT IT NEED MEAN NO MORE THAN WHAT ZHAO SAID DURING THE MRS THATCHER VISIT. THE FACT THAT THIS SECTION OF THE REPORT HAS BEEN EXCISED FROM THE PEOPLES DAILY AND XINHUA REPORTS SUGGESTS THAT THE CHINESE MAY ALSO REALISE THAT IT WAS UNDESIRABLE.

4. WE SHALL ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT FROM THE THAIS EXACTLY WHAT WAS SAID TO GENERAL PREM.

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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