

Ref: A082/0330

It is possible the  
inclusion will lead

help at all. In

any case - the Communist

PRIME MINISTER

has not

been mentioned

SECRET

Prime Minister

There is clearly a case for briefing the  
Australians. But I wonder whether it might  
not be better for John Nason to brief Mr.  
Fraser personally. It might keep the circle  
smaller.

Mr. Fraser?

or Australia intelligence representative?  
A.J.C. 30

You recently agreed that the Americans (the Secretary of State  
and the Vice-President) should be briefed on Hong Kong in view of  
their interests and investment in the area.

2. The Australians are also concerned about the future of Hong  
Kong in the period up to 1997. They have an interest in Hong Kong  
by virtue of commercial investment and geography; but there is a  
more direct and particular reason for their concern.

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3. The JIC is well aware of your instruction that knowledge of  
the details of negotiations with the Chinese should be tightly  
restricted to those who need to know.

4. There are clearly potential disadvantages in widening the  
circle further of those who know of the course of our negotiations  
with the Chinese. On the other hand, the Australians (like the  
Americans) have a genuine need to know, and I think that it is right  
that, as their allies, we should try to ensure that they base any  
investment or policy decisions which they have to make in relation  
to Hong Kong on reliable briefing rather than on the speculation and  
rumours which are already circulating.

SECRET

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5. I am copying this minute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

REA

Robert Armstrong

30th November 1982