

Hong Kong

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GRS 213

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FM FCO 031400Z DEC 82

TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1020 OF 3 DECEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)

PERSONAL FOR GOVERNOR FROM DONALD

TELECON WITH DONALD REFERS FUTURE OF HONG KONG

1. TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO YOU DATED 2 DECEMBER AS FOLLOWS:

'I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOU HAVE BEEN DOING TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG IN THE PAST WEEKS. I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING YOUR TELEGRAMS WITH THE CLOSEST INTEREST. WE HAVE JUST HAD A USEFUL MEETING HERE ABOUT OUR TALKS WITH THE CHINESE AND IT WAS A GREAT HELP THAT PHILIP HADDON-CAVE WAS ABLE TO ATTEND. I KNOW THAT YOU THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE THE UNOFFICIALS INTO YOUR CONFIDENCE ABOUT OUR TALKS WITH THE CHINESE. I ENTIRELY UNDERSTAND THIS AND WOULD LIKE YOU IN FUTURE TO USE YOUR DISCRETION TO BRIEF THE UNOFFICIALS, AND ANYONE ELSE WHO YOU FEEL MUST KNOW, ABOUT THESE CONTACTS. IT SHOULD OF COURSE BE MADE CLEAR TO ALL CONCERNED THAT IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO RESPECT THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF YOUR BRIEFING. I KNOW YOU WILL USE THIS DISCRETION SPARINGLY. I SIMPLY WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT YOU DO NOT NEED TO SEEK SPECIFIC AUTHORITY IN FUTURE BUT MAY USE YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT IN WHICH I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE.'

2. I SHALL BRING THE ORIGINAL WITH ME. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL NEXT WEEK.

PYM

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

HD/ HK & GD  
 HD/FED  
 HD/PLANNING STAFF  
 HD/PUSD  
 PS  
 PS/LORD BELSTEAD  
 PS/PUS  
 MR GIFFARD  
 MR DONALD

COPIES TO

SIR I SINCLAIR LEGAL ADVISER  
 MR ROBERTS NEWS D  
 MR COLES - NO 10 DOWNING STREET  
 MR MARTIN ASSESSMENTS STAFF  
 CABINET OFFICE

SECRET