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Prime Minister

OO HONG KONG

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TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG
TELEGRAM NUMBER 198 OF 4 MARCH

It is interesting that the Chinese are so active about Hong Kong within the U.K. - but it is partly fortuitous since the Chinese Ambassador is leaving.

A.S.C. 2/3

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM HONG KONG GOVT OFFICE, LONDON.
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TELEGRAM NUMBER HK 418 OF 4 MARCH 1983
TO IMMEDIATE GOVERNOR HONG KONG
SECRETARY FOR HOME AFFAIRS (FOR MR MASEFIELD)
FROM COMMISSIONER, LONDON OFFICE
COPY TO MR DICK CLIFT (FCO, HKGD)

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

ARTHUR WONG, HEAD OF OUR MANCHESTER SUB-OFFICE, ATTENDED A RECEPTION IN MANCHESTER ON EVENING OF 2 MARCH ORGANISED BY LEFTIST GROUPS (THE NORTH WEST CHINESE CHAMBER OF TRADE, NORTH WEST CHINESE ASSOCIATION) AND MANCHESTER CHINA TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION FOR CHINESE AMBASSADOR KE HUA. SOME 200 PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE LORD MAYOR AND ABOUT 10 LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICIALS, WERE PRESENT. MR KE SPOKE FOR APPROX THIRTY-FIVE MINUTES INCLUSIVE OF ENGLISH INTERPRETATION. HE DWELLED MAINLY ON GOOD SINO-BRITISH RELATIONS AND URGED DIFFERENT FACTIONS OF CHINESE IN MANCHESTER TO FORGET DIFFERENCES AND UNITE.

2. ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG, HE SAID BRIEFLY THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROGRESS AND HE HAD NOTHING TO REPORT AS PROCEEDINGS MUST BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. HE STRESSED THAT SOVEREIGNTY WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE BUT BELIEVED THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD REACH SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD MAINTAIN STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG.

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3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT JUST LAST FRIDAY (25.2.83) MR KE WAS FETED BY THE 'RIVAL' FACTION IN MANCHESTER. AGAIN THE LORD MAYOR AND SOME LOCAL OFFICIALS ATTENDED. MR KE' SPEECH, THEN, MADE NO REFERENCE TO HK BUT CONCENTRATED ON THE NEED FOR UNITY AMONGST CHINESE HERE.
4. ALSO ON 1 MARCH, CHINESE AMBASSADOR WAS IN GLASGOW TO ATTEND A FAREWELL PARTY ORGANISED BY LOCAL CHINESE AT WHICH THE LORD PROVOST AND OUR LIAISON OFFICERS OF EDINBURGH SUB-OFFICE WERE PRESENT. MR KE ONLY TOUCHED UPON THE QUESTION OF HK'S FUTURE BY SAYING THAT THE SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. HE FURTHER STRESSED CHINA WOULD NOT REPEAT MISTAKES MADE DURING CULTURAL REVOLUTION, LEAST OF ALL IN HK.
5. MEANWHILE IN LONDON, IT HAS JUST COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT ONE CHEN TIANING (7115 1131 5116) HAS STARTED TO DISTRIBUTE TO CHINESE PEOPLE INCLUDING SCHOOL CHILDREN A STENCILLED HAND-COPIED BOOKLET CONTAINING AN EXTRACT FROM THE CHINESE HISTORY MAGAZINE REFERRED TO IN 'MEDIA SUMMARY ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE' FOR THE WEEKS OF 25 JANUARY AND 1 FEBRUARY. BOOKLET IS NOT BEING FORWARDED TO YOU AS CONTENTS ARE PRESUMABLY AVAILABLE IN HK.
6. CHEN IS AN ELDERLY PENSIONER SAID TO HAVE BEEN A SEAMAN AND THEN WORKED FOR NCNA, LONDON SOME TIME AGO. HE, A HAKKA, IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEFT-WING KUNG HO ASSOCIATION (0364 9735 0588 2585) BUT IS NOT ON ITS COMMITTEE. WE BELIEVE THIS IS PART OF THE WAR OF WORDS DESIGNED TO REMIND OR INFORM PEOPLE OF THE OPIUM WAR AND TO STIR-UP NATIONALISM BUT CANNOT ASCERTAIN WHETHER IT IS DONE OF HIS OWN INITIATIVE.
7. WE THINK THAT AS THE 'BOOKLET' IS 'OLD HAT', NOT WELL COPIED AND QUITE VOLUMINOUS (HALF-AN-INCH THICK, WRITTEN ON BOTH SIDES), IT IS UNLIKELY TO BE MUCH READ.

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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