

**SECRET**

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FM HONG KONG 210640Z SEP 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1391 OF 21 SEPTEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR), BRUNEI (FOR PS TO MR LUCE)

AR  $\frac{23}{9}$ 

h.a.

YOUR TELEGRAM NO 937: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH EXCO.

I PUT YOUR POINTS TO EXCO ON 21 SEPTEMBER EMPHASISING THE RISK THAT THE CHINESE WOULD MISREPRESENT OUR REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF THEIR PLANS AS A SHIFT OF POSITION ON OUR PART.

2. THE MEMBERS CONFIRMED THEIR RECOGNITION OF THIS RISK AND THEIR VIEW THAT IT WAS ACCEPTABLE IF IT WERE THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO A BREAKDOWN OF THE TALKS.

3. WITHOUT WEAKENING THIS CONFIRMATION AND WITHOUT SEEKING TO TIE THE HANDS OF OUR NEGOTIATORS (IN WHOM THEY EXPRESSED EVERY CONFIDENCE) THEY MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON NEGOTIATING TACTICS. I SAID I WOULD PASS THEM ON, ALTHOUGH PERSONALLY I BELIEVE THEM TO BE SUPEREROGATORY.

(A) IF THE CHINESE PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF THE TALKS, WE SHOULD EMPHASISE THE CRITICAL EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG. ONLY IF THIS FAILED TO MOVE THEM SHOULD WE DEPLOY THE TACTIC OF ASKING FOR THEIR DETAILED PLANS (ALTHOUGH THE DANGERS OF EXCESSIVE BRINKMANSHIP WERE MENTIONED BY SEVERAL MEMBERS AND NO-ONE WAS DISPOSED TO AMEND IN ANY WAY THE ADVICE CONTAINED IN TELNO 1368).

(B) GREAT STRESS SHOULD BE LAID ON THE POINT THAT OUR REQUEST WAS ENTIRELY WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OUR BASIC POSITION AS STATED EARLIER IN THE TALKS.

(C) THE CHINESE SHOULD BE TOLD THAT IF THEY MISREPRESENTED OUR REQUEST PUBLICLY WE WOULD BE OBLIGED TO MAKE OUR POSITION AS AT

(B) ABOVE KNOWN PUBLICLY ALSO.

HADDON-CAVE

## FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

HD/HKD

HD/FED

HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/FUSD

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR LUCE

PS/FUS

SIR J BULLARD

MR GIFFARD

MR DONALD

MR WRIGHT

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MR MARTIN ASSESSMENTS STAFF  
CABINET OFFICE

MR FLOWER FUSD

MR COLES NO 10 DOWNING STREET

SIR A PARSONS NO 10 DOWNING STREET

MR WALKER RESEARCH D (GOGGS)

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