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FROM PEKING 030850Z NOV 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1141 OF 3/11/83

REPEATED FOR INFO TO PRIORITY HONG KONG

HONG KONG TEL NO 1642: VISIT OF SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER:

REMARKS ON HONG KONG

1. MORAN STATED PUBLICLY WHILE HERE THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN CHINA'S POSITION ON HONG KONG, BECAUSE OF THE SIMILARITY TO THE GIBRALTAR QUESTION.
2. AT A BANQUET GIVEN BY FOREIGN MINISTER WU XUEQIAN ON 29 OCTOBER MORAN SAID THAT SPAIN AND CHINA FIRMLY OPPOSED RACISM AND COLONIALISM. HE ADDED THAT THERE WERE QUESTIONS LEFT OVER FROM HISTORY CONCERNING THE TERRITORY OF BOTH COUNTRIES. SUCH QUESTIONS COULD ONLY BE SOLVED THROUGH REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE PARTIES INVOLVED. THE DIALOGUE HAD TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE PARTICULAR FEATURES OF THE AGE. QUESTIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY COULD NOT BE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION. THESE REMARKS WERE REPORTED IN PEOPLE'S DAILY ON 31 OCTOBER.
3. MORAN MET DENG XIAOPING ON 30 OCTOBER AND AFTERWARDS SPOKE TO REPORTERS. HE SAID DENG HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE QUESTION OF WHO WOULD ADMINISTER HONG KONG AFTER PEKING REGAINED SOVEREIGNTY WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE. DENG HAD REITERATED THAT THE TALKS DEALT ONLY WITH ASSURING THE COLONY'S STABILITY AND PROSPERITY UNTIL (SIC) 1997.

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*Mr. Moran is too clever
for his own good.
A.S.C. 4/11.*

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4. THE REPORT OF DENG'S REMARKS ON HONG KONG TO MORAN APPEARED ONLY AS AN AFP DESPATCH AND WAS NOT IN THE CHINESE PRESS. WE SUSPECT THAT THE REFERENCE TO STABILITY AND PROSPERITY (NEXT WORD UNDERLINED) UNTIL 1997 WAS THE RESULT OF A MIS-UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF AFP OR THE SPANISH. WE ARE TRYING TO CLARIFY THIS, BUT FOR THE MOMENT THE SPANISH EMBASSY ARE ADHERING RIGIDLY TO INSTRUCTIONS TO TELL US NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT EXCHANGES ON HONG KONG. WE SHALL RAISE THE POINT INFORMALLY WITH THE MFA WHEN A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY ARISES.

CRADOCK.

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

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ED/FED

ED/PLANNING STAFF

ED/PUSD ^{SED}

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RESEARCH DEPT(MR WALKER)

LEGAL ADVISER(SIR IAN SINCLAIR)

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR LUCE

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MR ROBERTS NEWS DEPT

MR BURROWS LEGAL ADVISERS

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