

SECRET

FROM PEKING 160840Z NOV 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1200 OF 16/11/83

REPEATED FOR INFO TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: CALLS ON CHINESE LEADERS

1. AT DINNER ON 15 NOVEMBER, YAO GUANG ASKED ME WHETHER I WAS MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR MY FINAL CALLS. I SAID I WAS HOPING TO CALL ON SOME CHINESE LEADERS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HONG KONG TALKS AND MY DUTIES AFTER RETURN TO THE UK. I ASKED WHETHER HE HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS. YAO SAID HIS MIND WAS MOVING IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS MY OWN. HE OFFERED HIS HELP IF I MADE MY APPLICATION THROUGH THE USUAL PROTOCOL CHANNELS.

2. I WOULD IN THE NORMAL WAY EXPECT TO CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER WU BEFORE LEAVING. BUT THE ABOVE ENCOURAGES ME IN MY INTENTION TO SEEK A CALL ALSO ON ZHAO AND SUGGESTS THAT I MIGHT PERHAPS TRY FOR DENG.

3. IT WOULD VERY MUCH HELP IF I WERE ABLE TO INVOKE SOME MINISTERIAL SUPPORT IN THIS APPLICATION. IF YOU AGREE, I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR AUTHORITY TO TELL THE CHINESE THAT IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HONG KONG TALKS, THE PRIME MINISTER HOPES I SHALL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY BEFORE I LEAVE OF PAYING A FAREWELL CALL ON PRIME MINISTER ZHAO AND ALSO OF CONVEYING HER GOOD WISHES IN A CALL ON CHAIRMAN DENG.

4. IF AN APPLICATION WERE MADE IN THESE TERMS, ZHAO MIGHT BE ATTAINABLE. DENG IS A LONGER SHOT. THE CHINESE WILL ASSUME I SHALL BE CARRYING SOME MESSAGE. WHAT THIS WOULD BE PRECISELY WILL DEPEND ON THE 7/8 DECEMBER ROUND AND ANY INFORMAL MEETINGS IN THE INTERVAL. BUT AS I SEE IT NOW, THE OBJECT WOULD BE TO CONVEY -

(A) OUR SINCERE WISH TO BUILD ON THE CHINESE PROPOSALS

(B) THE URGENT NEED FOR PRACTICAL DISCUSSIONS IN A CERTAIN DEGREE OF DETAIL IF THE WHOLE OPERATION IS NOT TO FOUNDER AND OUR COMMON AIM TO BE STULTIFIED.

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5. A CALL BY ME ON CHINESE LEADERS AT THIS POINT WOULD BE A LOGICAL STEP. IT COULD ALSO BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT ANY OF THE PUBLICITY INEVITABLE ON A VISIT BY YOU YOURSELF TO PEKING IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, WHICH WOULD BE THE ONLY OTHER SURE WAY OF GETTING ACCESS TO CHINESE LEADERS. YOU MIGHT & HOWEVER, WISH TO CONSIDER A VISIT AT A LATER STAGE AND THIS MIGHT BECOME ADVISABLE IF THE SITUATION CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE.

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

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