

SECRET

GR 180

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FM PEKING 120651Z DEC 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1330 OF 12TH DEC 83

INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

MY TELNO 1325. FUTURE OF HONG KONG: CALLS ON LEADERS.

1. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN ANY DISCUSSION OVER A PROPOSED PLA PRESENCE IN HONG KONG AFTER 1997 IF I COULD INDICATE THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING BRITISH TROOPS FROM HONG KONG WELL BEFORE 1997. THIS WOULD COUNTER ANY CHINESE ARGUMENT THAT IF BRITISH TROOPS ARE STATIONED IN HONG KONG NOW THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE PLA SHOULD NOT BE STATIONED THERE AFTER 1997. IT WOULD ALSO LEAD NATURALLY TO A STATEMENT OF OUR INTENTION TO BUILD UP AN INTERNAL SECURITY FORCE IN HONG KONG TO HANDLE SECURITY THERE WITHOUT ANY OUTSIDE PRESENCE. IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT BE THE FIRST POINT I MADE ON THE TOPIC BUT IT WOULD BE SOMETHING TO DRAW ON IF THE DISCUSSION REQUIRED IT.

2. I REALISE THIS IS RUNNING VERY FAST. BUT THE SOONER WE CAN PREVENT THE IDEA OF A PLA PRESENCE IN HONG KONG TAKING ROOT THE BETTER.

CRADOCK

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

ED/ED

ED/FED

ED/PLANNING STAFF

ED/FUSD

D/ED/FUSD(MR FLOWER)

RESEARCH DEPT(MR WALKER)

LEGAL ADVISER(SIR IAN SINCLAIR)

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR LUCE

PS/PUS

SIR J BULLARD

MR GIFFARD

MR DONALD

MR WRIGHT

SIR C TICKELL

COPIES TO: (VIA DISTR. ROOM)

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

PS/LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

PS/HOME SECRETARY

PS/CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

PS/LORD PRIVY SEAL

PS/SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

COPIES TO: (VIA ADR)

MR ROBERTS NEWS DEPT

MR BURROWS LEGAL ADVISERS

MR COLES NO 10 DOWNING ST

SIR A PARSONS " "

MR MARTIN ASSESSMENT STAFF  
CABINET OFFICE

MR GOODALL CABINET OFFICE

MR BRENNAN " "

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE

PS/ATTORNEY GENERAL

SECRET



Hong Kong: Inland Pt 11



11/11/11