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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name LAUX, DAVID: FILES

Withdrawer

CAS 6/10/2010

File Folder CHINA-FOREIGN RELATIONS-HONG KONG (1/25/83-2/25/83)

FOIA

M09-299/1

Box Number 13

COLLINGS

12

ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
92369	CABLE	RE HONG KONG <i>D</i> 12/20/2017 <i>M299/1</i>	2	1/25/1983	B1 B3
92370	CABLE	RE HONG KONG <i>D</i> 12/20/2017 <i>M299/1</i>	4	1/25/1983	B1 B3
92371	CABLE	RE HONG KONG <i>D</i> 12/20/2017 <i>M299/1</i>	12	1/25/1983	B1 B3
92379	CABLE	RE HONG KONG <i>D</i> 12/20/2017 <i>M299/1</i>	2	1/25/1983	B1 B3
92380	CABLE	RE HONG KONG <i>D</i> 12/20/2017 <i>M299/1</i>	3	1/25/1983	B1 B3
92382	CABLE	RE HONG KONG <i>D</i> 12/20/2017 <i>M299/1</i>	4	1/26/1983	B1 B3
92384	CABLE	RE HONG KONG <i>D</i> 12/20/2017 <i>M299/1</i>	2	1/27/1983	B1 B3
92386	PAPER	RE HONG KONG (P. 2 ONLY) <i>R</i> 12/20/2017 <i>M299/1</i>	1	ND	B1 B3
92388	CABLE	STATE 026171 <i>R</i> 6/21/2012 <i>M299/1</i>	1	1/28/1983	B1

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]

B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
92390	CABLE	HONG KONG 01917 R 6/21/2012 M299/1	2	1/31/1983	B1
92391	PAPER	RE HONG KONG (P. 11 ONLY) PAR 12/20/2017 M299/1	1	1/31/1983	B1 B3
92394	CABLE	HONG KONG 02243 R 6/21/2012 M299/1	2	2/4/1983	B1
92397	CABLE	HONG KONG 02245 R 6/21/2012 M299/1	2	2/4/1983	B1
92399	PAPER	RE HONG KONG	2	2/4/1983	B1 B3
92404	CABLE	051826Z FEB 83 D 12/20/2017 M299/1	1	2/5/1983	B1 B3
92406	CABLE	RE HONG KONG D 12/20/2017 M299/1	2	2/5/1983	B1 B3
92407	CABLE	RE HONG KONG D 12/20/2017 M299/1	2	2/5/1983	B1 B3
92408	CABLE	RE HONG KONG D 12/20/2017 M299/1	2	2/9/1983	B1 B3
92409	CABLE	RE HONG KONG (DUPE OF 92408) D 12/20/2017 M299/1	2	2/9/1983	B1 B3

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ID	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
92411	CABLE	182154Z FEB 83 <i>D</i> 12/20/2017 <i>M299/1</i>	1	2/18/1983	B1 B3
92412	CABLE	HONG KONG 03415 <i>R</i> 6/21/2012 <i>M299/1</i>	2	2/25/1983	B1 B3
92414	CABLE	RE HONG KONG <i>D</i> 12/20/2017 <i>M299/1</i>	1	2/25/1983	B1 B3
92415	PAPER	RE HONG KONG <i>R</i> 6/21/2012 <i>M299/1</i>	4	2/25/1983	B1

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92369	CABLE RE HONG KONG	2	1/25/1983	B1 B3

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92370	CABLE RE HONG KONG	4	1/25/1983	B1 B3

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92371	CABLE RE HONG KONG	12	1/25/1983	B1 B3

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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92379	CABLE RE HONG KONG	2	1/25/1983	B1 B3

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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92380	CABLE RE HONG KONG	3	1/25/1983	B1 B3

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92382	CABLE RE HONG KONG	4	1/26/1983	B1 B3

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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92384	CABLE RE HONG KONG	2	1/27/1983	B1 B3

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92386	PAPER RE HONG KONG (P. 2 ONLY)	1	ND	B1 B3

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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92388

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INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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EXDIS/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT/ORCON - FOR PRINCIPAL OFFICER ONLY
E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: XE, PINR, CH, HK
SUBJECT: INR'S EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS,
JANUARY 23-29, 1983, REPORT NO. 4, SUPPLEMENT 1

1. PRC/HONG KONG: NCNA OFFICIAL REVEALS DETAILS OF
BEIJING'S POSITION

A. LUO KEMING, A NCNA OFFICIAL RESIDENT IN HONG KONG,
RECENTLY ADDRESSED A GUANDONG PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE CON-
FERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE
SOURCE, LUO SAID THERE WOULD BE NO BRITISH GOVERNMENT OR
MILITARY AND NO CHINESE MILITARY (PLA) PRESENCE IN THE COLONY
AFTER 1997, BUT THE PLA WOULD PATROL OUTSIDE OF HONG KONG TO
ENSURE SECURITY. LUO IMPLIED THAT WHILE HONG KONG WOULD BE
GOVERNED BY HONG KONG CHINESE, CHINA WOULD SEND AN IN-
CREASING NUMBER OF CADRE TO HONG KONG PRIOR TO REVERSION.
IMMIGRATION OR SOCIAL PRACTICES WOULD NOT BE CHANGED, ALL
RELIGIONS WOULD BE TOLERATED, THE CURRENCY WOULD REMAIN
SEPARATE BUT THE PROPERTY MARKET WOULD BE GOVERNMENT SUPER-
VISED, AND NEWSPAPERS (OTHER THAN THOSE THAT ARE PRO-TAIWAN)
WOULD CONTINUE BUT COULD NOT CRITICIZE THE PRC.

B. LUO'S PRESENTATION, ALTHOUGH SIMILAR TO EARLIER CHINESE
STATEMENTS, IS MORE DEFINITE THAT HONG KONG WOULD BE RUN BY ITS
OWN RESIDENTS AFTER REVERSION. NOTHING IN LUO'S ADDRESS,

HOWEVER, NOTES THE FACT THAT HONG KONG'S FUTURE STATUS IS
CURRENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION. WHILE CLAIMING THAT HONG KONG
IN EFFECT WOULD BE SELF-GOVERNED, LUO MADE IT CLEAR THAT
BEIJING EXPECTS TO TELL THAT GOVERNMENT WHAT TO DO. IN
ANY EVENT, IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH SUPERVISION
WILL BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT A SIZEABLE OFFICIAL PRC PRESENCE IN
HONG KONG. (RRANDOLPH/FDONNER) SHULTZ
BT

DECLASSIFIED

NLRR M299 #92388

BY KML NARA DATE 6/21/12

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 HONG KONG 01917

JAKARTA FOR DAS FUNSETH
E.O. 12356: DECL: 1/31/89
TAGS: PREL, SREF, HK, VM, UK
SUBJ: THE REFUGEE SITUATION IN HONG KONG
REF: STATE 25310

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: CONSUL GENERAL LEVIN WAS FORMALLY REQUESTED BY THE SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, DAVID JEAFFRESON, TO DISCUSS REFUGEE PROBLEM ON JANUARY 27. THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST AND BBC HAVE CARRIED REPORTS THAT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS VERY SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING SENDING HONG KONG'S BOAT PEOPLE BACK TO VIETNAM AND IS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF ENGAGING THE SRV IN TALKS TO EFFECT THAT OPTION. END SUMMARY.

3. NEWLY APPOINTED SECRETARY FOR SECURITY, DAVID JEAFFRESON, CALLED IN CONSUL GENERAL LEVIN JANUARY 27, TO DISCUSS REFUGEE ISSUE. CALL AND PARALLEL APPROACH IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL) WERE UNDOUBTEDLY PROMPTED BY HKG'S DESIRE TO APPEAR RESPONSIVE TO RECENT EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OVER THE LOW NUMBER OF REFUGEES BEING RESETTLED FROM HONG KONG. WE SUSPECT THAT THE SAME REASON WAS PARTLY BEHIND HKG LEAKS TO THE PRESS LAST WEEK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF INVOLUNTARILY REPATRIATING REFUGEES BACK TO VIETNAM. ACCORDING TO A WELL-PLACED HKG OFFICIAL, ANOTHER, MORE IMPORTANT REASON FOR THE LEAKS, WAS THE HOPE THAT WORD WOULD GET BACK TO VIETNAM AND SERVE TO DETER WOULD-BE REFUGEES FROM HEADING TO HONG KONG.

4. JEAFFRESON'S PRESENTATION ON THE REFUGEE ISSUE COVERED FAMILIAR GROUND. HONG KONG HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING FIRST ASYLUM TO VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE IN THE EXPECTATION ENGENDERED BY THE

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT THE REFUGEES WOULD BE RESETTLED FAIRLY PROMPTLY. OVER THE PAST YEAR RESETTLEMENT OFFERS HAVE DECLINED PRECIPITOUSLY WHILE THE NUMBER OF BOAT PEOPLE HAS INCREASED. HONG KONG IS THE LARGEST RECIPIENT OF BOAT PEOPLE IN THE REGION. THIRTEEN THOUSAND ARE NOW IN CAMPS AND NUMBERS ARE LIKELY TO GROW OVER THE SUMMER, THE CUSTOMARY SEASON FOR ARRIVALS. PUBLIC UNHAPPINESS OVER THE SITUATION IS GROWING AND THE HKG MAY SOON FACE THE PRACTICAL PROBLEM OF RUNNING OUT OF ACCOMMODATIONS SHOULD AN EXPECTED INFLUX MATERIALIZE. THE HKG HOPES THAT THE U.S. COULD HELP EASE THE PROBLEM BY INCREASING ITS PRESENT IN-TAKE, NOW AT A HISTORICAL LOW OF AROUND ONE HUNDRED A MONTH.

5. THE CONSUL GENERAL REPLIED WITH A FAMILIAR RECITAL OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS IN THE U.S. WORKING AGAINST LARGE SCALE RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES. MOREOVER, OVER THE PAST YEAR OUR SCREENING PROCESS HAD BEEN TIGHTENED UP TO ASSURE ELIGIBILITY UNDER EXISTING U.S. LEGISLATION. THOUGH THERE WAS LITTLE PROSPECT OF CURRENT U.S. RESETTLEMENT LEVELS FOR HONG KONG INCREASING SIGNIFICANTLY, SHOULD ARRIVALS INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS, THE U.S. WOULD REVIEW EARLIER REJECTED NO-SHOW, RPC AND UK TAINTED CASES. WE WOULD TRY TO EASE HONG KONG'S BURDEN, THOUGH THIS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS A COMMITMENT TO A LARGER OFF-TAKE.

6. THE CG ASKED JEAFFRESON ABOUT PRESS REPORTS OF INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATION. JEAFFRESON SAID THAT LONDON IS CONSIDERING APPROACHING HANOI ON THE ISSUE. SOURCES IN THE POLITICAL ADVISOR'S OFFICE INDICATE THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN EXPLORATORY APPROACH, BUT LITTLE OPTIMISM THAT IT WILL BEAR FRUIT BECAUSE OF A COMBINATION OF BRITISH NERVOUS-

NESS ABOUT FORCING PEOPLE BACK TO VIETNAM AGAINST THEIR WILL AND THE UNLIKELIHOOD OF HANOI AGREEING TO ACCEPT RETURNED VIETNAMESE. ONE WELL-INFORMED SOURCE CLAIMED THAT WHEN FORMER UK AMBASSADOR TO THE SRV, TONKIN, PAID HIS FAREWELL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER THACH LAST OCTOBER, THACH MENTIONED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE SRV AND HKG TO HOLD TALKS ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IN HONG KONG. THACH REPORTEDLY BT

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BY KNL NARA DATE 6/25/12

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PAGE 01 AMCONSUL HONG KONG 1917 DTG: 311103Z JAN 83 PSN: 023130
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USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2407

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 HONG KONG 01917

JAKARTA FOR DAS FUNSETH
REPEATED THE SUGGESTION MORE RECENTLY TO NEWLY
ARRIVED AMBASSADOR PIKE.

7. AS IS COMMONLY KNOWN, THE HKG HAS BEEN INVOLUNTARILY REPATRIATING TO THE PRC LARGE NUMBERS OF WOULD-BE CHINESE REFUGEES FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS. WIDESPREAD SUPPORT EXISTS HERE FOR INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND SHOULD NUMBERS INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE SUMMER WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE HKG PRESSURE ON LONDON TO PURSUE SUCH A COURSE, THOUGH WE SUSPECT ANY SUCH PROPOSAL WOULD AVOID RETROACTIVITY.

8. GETTING LONDON TO GO ALONG AND HANOI TO AGREE WOULD REMAIN MAJOR UNDERTAKINGS.
LEVIN
BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~Top Secret~~

[Redacted]

VIETNAM-KAMPUCHEA: Dry Season Operations

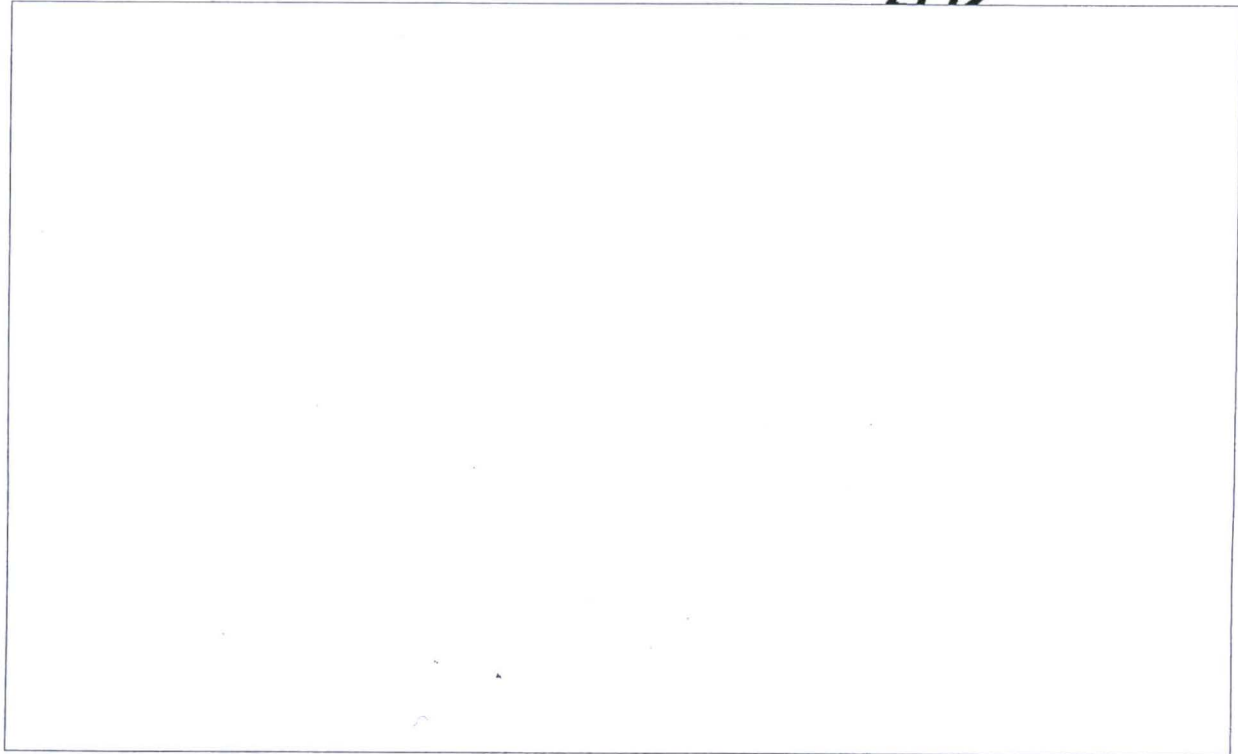
Vietnamese forces have been less aggressive through the first half of the dry season than they were last year. The most intense fighting has been near Nong Chan, where forces of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front were forced on 16 January to abandon several new forward positions. The Vietnamese last week added a new regiment near Nong Chan, increasing their strength there to more than a division. They also overran a Democratic Kampuchean base northwest of Pailin and forced evacuation of a small non-Communist base at O Bok and then withdrew.

[Redacted]

Comment: The Vietnamese are in their strongest strategic position since they invaded Kampuchea four years ago. They have moved substantial numbers of troops, armor, and heavy artillery near major resistance bases. Although Hanoi appears satisfied for now to keep guerrilla forces on the defensive, its forces can mount major operations on short notice.

[Redacted]

111



EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
EO 13526 3.3(b)(6)>25Yrs
EO 13526 3.5(c)

~~Top Secret~~

[Redacted]

~~31 January 1983~~

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NLRR M299/1 #92391

BY RW NARA DATE 12/20/17

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92394

37

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O 041045Z FEB 83
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5397
AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 4007
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 4412

~~SECRET~~ HONG KONG 02243

EXDIS
BEIJING FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY, AS WOLFOWITZ AND DAS
SHOESMITH
E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, PREL, MILI, HK, CH, UK, US
SUBJECT: BRITISH MILITARY SEEK U. S. VIEWS ON HONG KONG
SITUATION

1. (SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. DURING HIS VISIT HERE, CINCPAC WILL MEET WITH THE
COMMANDER OF BRITISH FORCES (CBF) ON FEBRUARY 8. ONE
OF THE TOPICS PROPOSED BY THE BRITISH MILITARY FOR
DISCUSSION IS THE IMPACT ON ASIA IF POLITICAL EVENTS
"GET OUT OF CONTROL" IN HONG KONG DURING THE NEXT FIVE
TO FIFTEEN YEARS. THE TOPIC HAS BEEN INSPIRED BY A
VISIT TO HONG KONG OF A BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
CENTRAL STAFF REPRESENTATIVE, A COLONEL ALLEN, WHO IS
RESEARCHING A "NATIONAL POSITION PAPER" ON THE SUBJECT.
ALLEN REPORTEDLY IS ALSO INTERESTED IN A USN ASSESSMENT
OF HOW U. S. SEVENTH FLEET INTERESTS WOULD BE AFFECTED
BY A SOURING OF EVENTS IN HONG KONG.

3. BRITISH MILITARY SOURCES TELL US PRIVATELY THAT
COLONEL ALLEN WILL ALSO BE EVALUATING THE LIKELY
EFFECTS OF A SCALING DOWN OF THE BRITISH MILITARY
PRESENCE IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING A TOTAL PULLOUT OF
THE ROYAL NAVY. ELEMENTS OF THE UK LEADERSHIP ARE
SAID TO FEEL THAT PATROL BOATS NOW BEING BUILT
IN SCOTLAND WOULD BE BETTER DEPLOYED AROUND
NORTH SEA OIL RIGS THAN IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA PICKING
UP ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. CONCEIVABLY, A STRUGGLE IN THE
UK OVER MILITARY RESOURCES MAY BE MORE OF A FACTOR IN
THE BRITISH REQUEST THAN THE 1997 ISSUE.

4. COMMENT
WE THINK THAT THE BRITISH MILITARY ARE COMING OUT
HERE TO ARM THEMSELVES FOR THE STRUGGLE IN LONDON
WITH A PREDICTABLE FRENETIC HK REACTION TO THE
PROPOSED REDUCTION OF FORCES AT THIS TIME. WE
HAVE ADVISED ADMIRAL LONG IN A MESSAGE (HK 2164),
BEING REPEATED TO ADDRESSEES, TO STEER CLEAR OF THE
ASSESSMENTS SOUGHT BY THE BRITISH BECAUSE OF THE

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PAGE 02 OF 02 AMCONSUL HONG KONG 2243 DTG: 041045Z FEB 83 PSN: 030825

SENSITIVITIES SURROUNDING THE HONG KONG ISSUE.
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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 4413

~~SECRET~~ HONG KONG 02245

EXDIS
NOFORN
BEIJING FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY, AS WOLFOWITZ AND DAS SHOE-
SMITH
E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, PREL, MILI, HK, CH, UK, US
SUBJECT: CINCPAC VISIT TO HONG KONG
FOLLOWING SENT ACTION CINCPAC HONOLULU, INFO CINCPACFLT
PEARL HARBOR, COMSEVENTHFLT FROM USDLO HONG KONG 04 FEB:
QUOTE
USDLO HONG KONG 040011Z FEB 83
NOFORN CITE 0251
SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR ADM LONG INFO ADM FOLEY AND VADM
HOLCOMB
SUBJ: CINCPAC VISIT TO HONG KONG (U)

1. (S/NF) DLO HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THREE TOPICS WHICH THE COMMANDER BRITISH FORCES MIGHT BRING UP DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH ADM LONG DURING CINCPAC'S 7 - 10 FEB VISIT TO HONG KONG.
 - A. THE FEASIBILITY OF BRITISH ARMY (GURKHA REGIMENTS) COMPANY LEVEL TRAINING AT APPROPRIATE FACILITIES IN HAWAII.
 - B. THE SULTAN OF BRUNEI'S INTEREST IN RECEIVING SEVENTHFLT PORT VISITS AFTER MID-1983 INDEPENDENCE.
 - C. THE CONCURRENT VISIT OF A BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CENTRAL STAFF REPRESENTATIVE WHO WILL BE IN HONG KONG TO RESEARCH A NATIONAL POSITION PAPER REGARDING THE IMPACT ON ASIA IF POLITICAL EVENTS "GET OUT OF CONTROL" IN HONG KONG DURING THE NEXT FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS.
2. (S/NF) THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL APPROACH CBF HAS MADE WITH THIS OFFICE ON THE LAST ISSUE. THE MOD REP IS A COL ALLEN WHO HAS REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE DLOR (CAPT PHILIP SHANNON) TO DISCUSS SPECIFICALLY WHAT IMPACT A SOURING OF EVENTS IN HONG KONG WOULD HAVE ON SEVENTHFLT INTERESTS.
3. (S/NF) SEVERAL BRITISH MILITARY SOURCES INDICATED TODAY THAT COL ALLEN WHILE IN HONG KONG WILL BE EVALUATING WHAT EFFECT A SCALING DOWN OF BRITISH MILITARY PRESENCE IN HONG KONG WOULD HAVE, AND IN PARTICULAR A COMPLETE PULL OUT OF THE ROYAL NAVY.
4. (S/NF) THE USG POSITION ON THE HONG KONG ISSUE IS THAT IT IS ONE FOR THE BRITISH AND CHINESE TO WORK OUT

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PAGE 02 OF 02 AMCONSUL HONG KONG 2245 DTG: 041058Z FEB 83 PSN: 030824

BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THAT WE HOPE THEY REACH A SOLUTION WHICH IS NOT DETRIMENTAL TO OUR CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INTERESTS IN HONG KONG. GIVEN THIS AND IN LIGHT OF THE SENSITIVITIES SURROUNDING THE HONG KONG ISSUE, CONSUL GENERAL LEVIN FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO LISTEN TO WHATEVER THE BRITISH MAY SAY WHILE AVOIDING ANY COMMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE IMPACT OF A HONG DETERIORATION ON ASIA GENERALLY OR SEVENTHFLT INTERESTS SPECIFICALLY. HE SEES SOME RISK OF THE BRITISH USING ANY POSITION YOU MIGHT TAKE IN AN UNHELPFUL WAY. HE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR UPON ARRIVAL.

DECL: OADR

UNQUOTE

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI//POLAD//

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EXDIS/NOFORN
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, PBTS, CH, XE, UK, HK, XB
SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF TALKS
REF: HONG KONG 3186

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NLRR M299 #92412

BY KML NARA DATE 6/21/12

1. TALKS ON HONG KONG'S FUTURE HAVE RESUMED IN BEIJING BETWEEN PRC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YAO GUANG AND UK AMBASSADOR SIR PERCY CRADDOCK, ACCORDING TO A VERY WELL-PLACED SOURCE HERE. THE SOURCE WOULD NOT INDICATE THE FREQUENCY OF THE RESUMED TALKS, THOUGH THE CONTEXT MADE IT OBVIOUS THAT SEVERAL SESSIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS. THE SOURCE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS STILL "NEGOTIATING" WITH LONDON ON EXACTLY WHAT ROLE THE HKG IS TO PLAY IN THE TOTAL NEGOTIATING PROCESS WITH BEIJING.
2. OUTSIDE THE TALKS, AS WELL AS IN THE MEETINGS, HE SAID, BEIJING CONTINUES THE CAMPAIGN TO "SPREAD ITS SMOKESCREEN ON THE SOVEREIGNTY ISSUE" BY SAYING THAT EVERYONE, INCLUDING BRITISH OFFICIALS AND MANY BRITISH NATIONALS, ACCEPT BEIJING'S CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL OF HONG KONG. IN THE UK'S VIEW THIS APPROACH REPRESENTS A PRC EFFORT TO IMPOSE PRE-CONDITIONS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN AGREED UPON BY THE TWO SIDES IN THEIR INITIAL SEPTEMBER 1982 MEETINGS.
3. IN THE VERY PRIVATE VIEW OF THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT, CHANCES FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME TO THE NEGOTIATIONS IN BEIJING ARE MUCH BETTER WITH DENG XIAOPING AND LIAO CHENGZHI STILL OCCUPYING KEY POSITIONS IN THE DE FACTO POWER STRUCTURE IN BEIJING. ACCORDINGLY, OFFICIALS HERE ARE CLOSELY WATCHING THE FORTUNES OF THE TWO. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE'S INFORMATION, LIAO CHENGZHI IS CURRENTLY SLATED TO BECOME THE DEPUTY HEAD OF STATE THIS SUMMER AT THE SIXTH NPC. (COMMENT: IN VIEW OF LIAO'S AGE (75) WE FEEL THIS UNLIKELY THOUGH NOT IMPOSSIBLE. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY PRO-PRC CONTACTS THAT LIAO WILL RETIRE WITHIN TWO

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YEARS AT THE MOST. END COMMENT.)

4. COMMENT

SOURCE WAS RATHER TIGHT-LIPPED AND REVEALED THE ABOVE INFORMATION WITH UNCHARACTERISTIC TREPIDATION. FROM HIS LIMITED COMMENTS IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SOVEREIGNTY IS STILL VERY MUCH THE FRONT ISSUE IN THE TALKS WITH BOTH SIDES CONTINUING TO TAKE OPPOSITE TACKS TOWARD THEIR OVERLAPPING GOAL OF PRESERVING HONG KONG'S PROSPERITY. THERE MAY BE A LONG WAY TO GO TO RECONCILE THESE DIFFERENCES, ALTHOUGH WE FEEL THAT THE BRITISH ARE RECONCILED TO THE ABANDONMENT OF SOVEREIGNTY AND THAT THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO DO SO OFF THE BAT RESTS PRIMARILY ON TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS. GIVEN THE SOMEWHAT EASED POPULAR MOOD HERE, IT NOW APPEARS THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE MORE TIME TO WORK THINGS OUT THAN SEEMED THE CASE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. OUR SOURCES, HOWEVER, STILL CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UK FEELS UNDER PRESSURE TO PRODUCE TIMELY RESULTS.

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(U) THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG

(S/NF) Summary

The downward turn in the Hong Kong stock and currency markets, triggered initially by the tougher-than-expected stances taken by Chinese and British leaders during their September 1982 talks, has been less precipitous in the past few months. However, prices remain depressed, the atmosphere tense, and further economic dislocation possible as a result of a widening deficit in the colony's balance of trade. These are troublesome reminders of how far Chinese and British negotiations will have to go to reassure Hong Kong business representatives about both their long- and short-term futures.

More than just economic factors concern Beijing in its dealings with London over the Hong Kong issue. Chinese leaders want to demonstrate their ability to regain sovereignty over previously separated areas, yet do so in a manner that allows those areas (including Macao and Taiwan) to retain their prerogative and very successful socioeconomic and administrative structures. If Sino-British negotiations are too prolonged (more than 2-3 years), however, capital and managerial outflows could become acute and contribute to another, even sharper, downturn in the economy.

To avert crises, the two sides must reach a compromise that acknowledges Chinese sovereignty, provides for some sort of interim British administrative presence, and overcomes the skepticism of the Hong Kong Chinese. The sticking point is the shape of a post-1997 administration; the true impediment is whether Hong Kong will have confidence in any agreement when it is reached.

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Report 563-AR
February 25, 1983

The Economic Stakes

(S/NF) The discussions between Britain and China are taking place while Hong Kong is feeling the pinch of the worldwide recession. Available data indicate that real growth in the gross domestic product is expected to be only 4 percent for 1982, down from the 10 percent or more of recent years. Hong Kong's largest firms continue to hedge their bets by actively building up their investments abroad, especially in Singapore. Diversification has not yet become disinvestment, but as much as 70 percent of the island's leading business representatives would be prepared to depart if the talks reached no satisfactory resolution, according to one source. Providing there is a reasonably stable environment in the interim, such decisions to move are more than a decade away. If the talks fail, real economic crisis, as opposed to a crisis in confidence, would come in the early 1990s.

(C) A less viable Hong Kong economy poses problems for China, which earns 30-40 percent of its foreign exchange (approximately \$6 billion per annum) through the colony. Equally important, Hong Kong is a convenient channel for technology transfers, general investment and trade, and the acquisition of managerial know-how--all especially important for China's modernization program.

(C/NF) The British do not reap significant economic benefits from their direct administrative involvement in Hong Kong. A sizable portion of Hong Kong's monetary reserves (20-25 percent) is lodged in London banks, and Hong Kong is Britain's largest export customer in East Asia (though this is offset by its important textile competition).

What Beijing Wants

(C) The Chinese are intent upon recovering sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997 but prefer, in achieving this goal, to retain the current economic benefits and provide a good precedent for Taiwan to follow. Foreign speculation naturally has tended to focus on the problems that China could face by assimilating Hong Kong:

- the loss of Hong Kong as a free international port;
- the loss of foreign-exchange earnings;

--the need to assimilate 5 million outsiders (many of them one-time refugees from the mainland); and

--the negative example for Taiwan.

(S) In fact, as part of any settlement, the Chinese are insisting that their flag fly over the colony and that they have the right to formal consultation on all matters relating to sovereignty. But they are also speaking of appointing a local Hong Kong Chinese administration. China's new Constitution also provides for "special administrative zones" with laws designed to meet the "specific concerns" of each area. Beijing thereby hopes to finesse the issue of whether communist officials can administer a capitalist enclave.

What London Wants

(C/NF) For Britain, the transfer of sovereignty has important political ramifications, both domestically in the United Kingdom and with regard to the Falklands and Gibraltar. The bottom line of British concern, however, may well be the desire to maintain marketing, banking, and shipping footholds in East Asia. Britain's hopes are based on China's need to preserve the benefits it receives from the colony.

(S/NF) Like the Chinese, Prime Minister Thatcher is being tough on the sovereignty issue. This could be her current bargaining strategy, because she has left open the possibility that the treaties could be negotiable. For the present, the British want to know the configuration of a post-1997 Hong Kong administration before they agree on sovereignty.

(S) What the Hong Kong Chinese Want

The Hong Kong Chinese are lobbying for a continuation of British law as the legal framework for the island's economic and administrative functions, retention of the Hong Kong dollar as a medium of exchange, and assurances on free travel. Most want to stay where they are, but recent reporting suggests they are already looking into contingency plans, including emigration to the US.

(C) The Island's Future

Neither an independent Hong Kong nor a mere extension of the status quo is an acceptable solution for China. Either outcome would offend Chinese nationalism and would be seen by China as a negative example for minority groups in China as well as for Taiwan. For mainly this reason, the Chinese want to inherit a

healthy, viable Hong Kong. The British do not want in their last 15 years of rule to preside over the disintegration of the colony.

London must take into account the people and the environment of Hong Kong, however. Given the difficult task of maintaining the confidence of Hong Kong Chinese in any settlement, the obstacles to a successful turnover to China are considerable. Only the pragmatism shown by both countries over the years in dealing with the colony offers hope for an acceptable resolution.

(C/NF) Implications for the US

US interests in Hong Kong can be relatively easily redirected elsewhere in East Asia. The most important and lasting impact of the Sino-British talks for the US will be their implications for Taiwan. Hong Kong provides a laboratory in which Taiwan and Washington can gauge flexibility by China on issues considered important to its own national sovereignty as well as on issues affecting the sensitivities and priorities of those with whom it deals.

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