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FOLIS007/18

DD LISBON (DESKBY 180700Z)

GRS 280

UNCLASSIFIED

DESBKY 180730Z FOR FCO

DESKBY 180700Z FOR LISBON

FROM PEKING 180520Z APR 84

TO F L A S H HONG KONG

TELEGRAM NUMBER [REDACTED] OF 18/4/84

INFO IMMEDIATE FCO AND IMMEDIATE LISBON (FOR PS/PRIME MINISTER)

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: VISIT BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE: PRESS STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS THE SHORT PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED
AT 0540Z TODAY (18 APRIL):

BEGINS

AT THE INVITATION OF STATE COUNCILLOR AND FOREIGN MINISTER WU XUEQIAN, THE BRITISH FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY, SIR GEOFFREY HOWE, VISITED CHINA FROM 15 TO 18 APRIL. THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD FRIENDLY AND WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. THEY ALSO DISCUSSED BILATERAL ISSUES. THEY AGREED THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE VERY GOOD AND LOOKED FORWARD TO THEIR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

DURING HIS VISIT SIR GEOFFREY HOWE ALSO HAD FRIENDLY DISCUSSION WITH CHAIRMAN DENG XIAOPING PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG AND STATE COUNCILLOR JI PENGFEI.

DURING THESE MEETINGS THE TWO SIDES REVIEWED THE COURSE OF THE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. THEY AGREED THAT THESE TALKS HAD MADE VALUABLE PROGRESS AND THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE FOLLOWING THE VISIT. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THIS VISIT OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND HIS TALKS WITH CHINESE LEADERS HAVE MADE FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE AGREEMENT WHICH BOTH SIDES SEEK.

SIR GEOFFREY HOWE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE WELCOME EXTENDED TO HIM BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AND INVITED STATE COUNCILLOR WU XUEQIAN TO VISIT THE UNITED KINGDOM. MINISTER WU ACCEPTED THIS INVITATION WITH PLEASURE. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE DATES FOR HIS VISIT SHOULD BE DECIDED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.