

PS
PS/PJS
PS/MR LUCE
~~MR BOYD~~
3
PS/PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
SIR WEDDING
~~ASSISTANT~~

COPIES TO:
^{POWER}
MR GILES, NO. 10 DOWNING ST
MR ROBERTS, NEWS DEPT
SIR PERCY CRADOCK

43



TYPISTS

SECRET
DESKBY 121430Z BOTH
FROM PEKING 121340Z SEPT 84
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 2282 OF 12/9/84
INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

ADVANCE
IMMEDIATE

MIPT: FUTURE OF HONG KONG: CALL ON ZHOU NAN: ORGANISATION OF WORK

1. I SAID THAT I UNDERSTOOD THE AD HOC GROUP WERE CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT ON LAND, AND THAT THE ANNEX I TEXT ON NATIONALITY TOO WAS ALMOST AGREED. THAT LEFT THE NATIONALITY MEMORANDA AND CIVIL AVIATION.
2. ZHOU NAN SAID HE HOPED DISCUSSION OF BOTH SUBJECTS WOULD BE COMPLETED TOMORROW. ON THE EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDA, THE CHINESE HAD PUT FORWARD A DRAFT OF THEIR DOCUMENT, AND WERE WAITING FOR US TO GIVE THEM A DRAFT OF OURS. ON CIVIL AVIATION HE HOPED THAT MCLAREN WOULD HAVE INSTRUCTIONS BY TOMORROW WHICH WOULD ENABLE A TEXT TO BE AGREED. I SAID THAT I THOUGH MCLAREN WOULD RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS DRAFTED IN THE LIGHT OF WU'S REPLY TO YOUR MESSAGE. BUT I WAS NOT SURE WHETHER DISCUSSION OF CIVIL AVIATION COULD BE COMPLETED TOMORROW.
3. I SAID I WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE REVISED ANNEX I TEXT PRESENTED TO THE WORKING GROUP TODAY. IN THIS TEXT THERE WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF CHANGES (INCLUDING A NUMBER OF SUBSTANCE) TO WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED IN THE WORKING GROUP AND ALSO NEW LANGUAGE ON CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. WILSON HAD AGREED TO GO THROUGH THE TEXTS, AND WAS RESPONDING ON A PERSONAL BASIS TO THE PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO THEM. BUT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT LONDON WHICH WOULD TAKE TIME.
4. ZHOU SAID THAT KE HAD TOLD WILSON THAT THE NEW REVISED DRAFT HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED NOT ONLY BY KE BUT ALSO BY HIMSELF AND OTHER EXPERTS. THE CHANGES WERE TECHNICAL AND LINGUISTIC. EARLIER TEXTS HAD READ IN CHINESE MORE LIKE TRANSLATIONS FROM THE ENGLISH TEXTS. FOR AN ANNEX THAT ELABORATED CHINESE POLICIES THIS WAS INAPPROPRIATE. BUT MANY OF THE CHANGES DID NOT REQUIRE CORRESPONDING AMENDMENT OF THE ENGLISH TEXT.

Prime Minister
see over:
we watched
Zhou
creating
difficulties
again.

CJP
12/9

5. ZHOU SAID THAT HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO ANY FURTHER CHANGES TO THE NEW REVISED DRAFT. MOREOVER AS WU HAD INDICATED, THE CONCESSIONS THE CHINESE WERE PREPARED TO MAKE ON CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, RATIFICATION AND PASSPORTS WERE CONDITIONAL ON:

(A) BRITISH ACCEPTANCE OF CHINESE PROPOSALS ON CIVIL AVIATION,

(B) DISCONTINUATION OF BRITISH INSISTENCE ON BRITISH LANGUAGE FOR ANNEX J.

6. ZHOU SAID THAT AFTER THE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION THE CHINESE HAD GIVEN TO THE POINTS WE HAD MADE ON THE MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES, THEY EXPECTED A MATCHING RESPONSE. THE CHINESE COULD NOT AGREE TO INITIALLING AFTER 25 SEPTEMBER. IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT WORK ON TEXTS SHOULD BE FINISHED BY 15 SEPTEMBER. I WOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT WU HAD SAID THAT ZHOU AND I SHOULD COMPLETE OUR WORK ON TEXTS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. HE WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO PROPOSE THAT AS SOON AS WILSON HAD STUDIED THE REVISED CHINESE DRAFT OF ANNEX I, THE WORKING GROUP MEMBERS SHOULD JOIN PLENARY DELEGATIONS TO GO THROUGH TEXTS AND RESOLVE ANY OUTSTANDING POINTS. THIS WOULD SAVE TIME.

7. I SAID THAT I HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD THAT WU HAD SAID THAT THE CONCESSIONS OFFERED ON RATIFICATIONS, CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PASSPORTS HAD BEEN CONDITIONAL ON ACCEPTANCE OF THE CHINESE POSITION ON CIVIL AVIATION. ZHOU READ OUT WU'S MESSAGE. IT EMERGED THAT IN THE ORIGINAL CHINESE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT THE FIRST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 9 OF MY TELNO 2256 WAS PREFIXED WITH THE WORDS: 'CAI CI QING KUANG ZHI XIA' (IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES).

I SAID THAT I DOUBTED THAT THESE ADDITIONAL WORDS IMPOSED CONDITIONALITY ON WHAT FOLLOWED, BUT THAT I WOULD REPORT WHAT HE HAD SAID. ZHOU REPEATED THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM US.

8. I THEN SAID THAT:

(A) MY DELEGATION WAS HAPPY TO COMMIT ITSELF TO EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLETE WORK ON TIME.

(B) THAT IN OUR VIEW A MORE EFFICIENT WAY OF PROCEEDING WAS FOR THE WORKING GROUP TO COMPLETE WORK ON ANNEX I AND THEN SUBMIT AGREED TEXTS TO DELEGATION LEADERS FOR ANY DIFFERENCES TO BE RESOLVED IN PLENARY. ZHOU SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS PROPOSAL FOR ABSORPTION OF THE WORKING GROUP INTO THE PLENARY DELEGATIONS WAS TO SAVE TIME. IF WILSON WANTED ANOTHER HALF A DAY FOR WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS, THE CHINESE COULD CONSIDER THAT. BUT WE MUST IMPOSE A TIME LIMIT ON THE GROUP'S DELIBERATIONS. IN ANY CASE KE DID NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO ANY CHANGES IN THE CHINESE REVISED TEXT. I SAID THAT THIS WAS AN UNBALANCED SITUATION. PEOPLE AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL ON THE CHINESE SIDE HAD HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO THROUGH THE ANNEX I TEXTS, WHEREAS THIS WAS NOT THE CASE FOR THE BRITISH SIDE. ZHOU REPEATED THAT HE COULD AGREE TO THE WORKING GROUP CONTINUING TO WORK FOR ANOTHER HALF A DAY. BUT TEXTS MUST BE REFERRED TO DELEGATION LEADERS SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. I REPEATED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION WAS THE EFFICIENCY WITH WHICH WORK WAS DISPATCHED.

COMMENT

9. I THINK THAT ZHOU'S ASSERTION THAT CHINESE CONCESSIONS ON RATIFICATION, CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PASSPORTS, WERE CONDITIONAL ON OUR AGREEMENT TO THEIR PROPOSALS ON CIVIL AVIATION IS A TRY-ON. I CANNOT SEE THAT THE ADDITION OF THE WORDS :
"IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES" TO "THE CHINESE SIDE WERE WILLING TO MAKE THE ABOVE CONCESSIONS ..." CREATES CONDITIONALTY. MOREOVER IT IS CLEAR FROM AD HOC DISCUSSIONS THAT WHILE THE CHINESE EXPECT US TO ACCEPT THEIR NEXT WORD UNDERLINED POSITION ON CIVIL AVIATION THEY ARE NOT ASKING US TO ACCEPT THEIR TEXT AS IT STANDS. LU PING TOLD MCLAREN AT THE END OF TODAY'S MEETING THAT HE HOPED WE WOULD TABLE A NEW DRAFT TOMORROW. I ALSO NOTE THAT THE CHINESE THEMSELVES HAVE NOW PUT FORWARD LANGUAGE ON CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND RATIFICATION.

10. SEE MIFT

EVANS
