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Tjphits

DD FCO 281130Z  
 DD PEKING 290100Z  
 GPS350  
 CONFIDENTIAL  
 DESKBY FCO 281130Z  
 DD PEKING 290100Z  
 FM HONG KONG 281030Z SEP 84  
 TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
 TELEGRAM NUMBER 3078 OF 28 SEPTEMBER  
 INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING

FUTURE OF HONG KONG : WHITE PAPER ON THE AGREEMENT :  
PUBLIC REACTION

IN THE FIRST TWO DAYS FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER, DISTRICT OFFICES HAVE REPORTED THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC REACTION IS FAVOURABLE. THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A GOOD DEAL BETTER THAN EXPECTED. (SOME SAY THAT IT IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.) THE SPECIFIC FEATURE WHICH HAS COME IN FOR FAVOURABLE COMMENT IS THE DETAILED AND COMPREHENSIVE NATURE OF THE AGREEMENT. OTHER POINTS WELCOMED ARE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LEGAL AND JUDICIAL SYSTEMS, THE COMMITMENT TO RETAIN EXISTING RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AND THE PROVISIONS FOR LAND LEASES.

2. HOWEVER SOME ANXIETIES ARE EMERGING. THESE INCLUDE DOUBTS WHETHER CHINA WILL ABIDE BY THE AGREEMENT AND CONCERNS ABOUT THE SCOPE FOR CHINESE INTERFERENCE, FOR EXAMPLE BY THE PLA AND THROUGH PEKING APPOINTED PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS. IT ALSO BEGINS TO LOOK AS IF THE NATIONALITY PROVISIONS WILL COME IN FOR CRITICISM. OF LESSER CONCERN IS THE COMMENT ON THE LACK OF DETAIL ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STRUCTURE.

3. AN EMERGING THEME ENCOURAGED BY COMMENTS BY ONE OR TWO VISITING MP'S AND LOCAL ACADEMICS IS THAT THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE HAS NO USEFUL ROLE TO PLAY. ITS CRITICS CLAIM THAT IF THE CHOICE IS BETWEEN REVERSION TO CHINA WITH THE AGREEMENT AND REVERSION WITHOUT AN AGREEMENT THERE IS NO POINT IN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC EXPRESSING AN OPINION. NEVERTHELESS ONE TELEPHONE SURVEY SUGGESTS THAT MANY PEOPLE INTEND TO SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS TO THE ASSESSMENT OFFICE.

4. IN TODAY'S TRADING THE HANG SENG INDEX FELL BY 12.48 POINTS TO CLOSE AT 1002.5. AT 3.30 TODAY THE HONG KONG DOLLAR STOOD AT DOLLARS 7.8070/7.81 TO 1 US DOLLAR.

YOUDE