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SECRET  
UK COMMS ONLY  
FM PEKING  
TO DESKBY 051630Z FCO  
TELNO 1040  
OF 051458Z JUNE 89  
AND TO DESKBY 051630Z HONG KONG  
INFO DESKBY 051630Z MODUK, JSIS HONG KONG

*He must have  
whatever money  
he needs for  
MT assault operation  
in view of our special  
position with H-K.  
What we should  
do about the  
students  
and others is  
just as we can  
not*

SIC U2B

DESKBY 051630Z MODUK AND JSIS HONG KONG

HONG KONG FOR GOVERNOR/POLAD.

CHINA INTERNAL : POSSIBLE EVACUATION.

1. MY NA IS TELEGRAPHING NOW (DEDIP TO GOVERNOR HONG KONG) A FACTUAL RECORD OF THE BACKGROUND TO THE ASSAULT BY 27 ARMY ON TIANANMEN SQUARE ON 3/4 JUNE AND THE OPERATION ITSELF. IT CLEARLY POINTS TO THE IMMINENT DANGER OF ARMED STRIFE BETWEEN DIFFERENT UNITS OF THE PLA,

2. TONIGHT'S DEPLOYMENT OF 30 TANKS AT OR NEAR THE CORNER OF THE DIPLOMATIC AREA (JIANGUOMENWAI FLYOVER) SUGGEST THAT THIS COULD BE ONE OF THE FOCAL POINTS OF ANY SUCH CLASH. THIS POSES AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF STAFF HOUSED IN FLATS OVERLOOKING THIS POSITION. FOR THE MOMENT I AM ADVISING STAFF TO KEEP WELL BACK FROM WINDOWS AND TO TAKE UP PROTECTIVE POSITIONS IN THEIR OWN FLATS OR IN ONES MORE SAFELY PLACED. I WILL KEEP SITUATION UNDER REVIEW AND COULD ASK STAFF TO FALL BACK ON RESIDENCE AND CHANCERY COMPOUNDS IF NECESSARY. THESE MEASURES APPLY EQUALLY TO STUDENTS WHO ARE BILLETED WITH STAFF MEMBERS.

3. IN THE MORNING I PROPOSE TO ADVISE ALL BRITISH BUSINESSMEN AND RESIDENT BRITISH NATIONALS IF THEY CAN THEY SHOULD NOW TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEPART BY AIR AS AND WHEN THEY CAN SAFELY MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE AIRPORT. SAME ADVICE WILL BE GIVEN TO HONG KONG PEOPLE.

4. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SHOULD ARRANGE

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OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT



A FURTHER CHARTER FLIGHT TO TAKE OFF MEMBERS OF HONG KONG PEOPLE WHO ARE GETTING VERY NERVOUS. IT SHOULD ARRIVE NOT BEFORE NOON, BUT IF POSSIBLE BE ABLE TO TAKE OFF BEFORE NIGHTFALL. I HOPE IT COULD HELP TO TAKE OFF ANY BRITISH SUBJECTS WHO MAY BE STRANDED AT THE AIRPORT.

5. THE TIME SEEMS TO HAVE COME TO CONSIDER EVACUATION PLANS FOR EITHER WHOLE OR SOME OF THE BRITISH COMMUNITY. AS A CONTINGENCY, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF HKG COULD DISCREETLY ESTABLISH HOW MANY SPECIAL CHARTER FLIGHTS COULD BE AVAILABLE AT VERY SHORT NOTICE IF REQUIRED TO TAKE OFF BETWEEN 500 TO 600 PEOPLE TO HONG KONG. THIS APPROXIMATE FIGURE WOULD INCLUDE ANY REMAINING BUSINESSMEN, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, RESIDENT FOREIGN EXPERTS, SUCH JOURNALISTS AS WISHED TO GO AND EMBASSY STAFF AND DEPENDENTS. (I SHALL BE GIVING FURTHER THOUGHT TO NEED FOR SKELETON STAFF AT EMBASSY). THE FIGURE INCLUDES SOME MARGIN FOR OTHER NON-REGISTERED PERSONS E.G. TOURISTS AND NATIONALS OF THOSE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WHOM WE REPRESENT.

C MURRIE

*of course*  
6. I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT THIS IS A CONTINGENCY AT THIS STAGE. I SHALL NOT ISSUE ANY EVACUATION ORDER TO BRITISH SUBJECTS UNTIL THE SITUATION CLEARLY REQUIRES IT AND I AM IN A POSITION TO GIVE FULL INSTRUCTIONS ON EVACUATION PROCEDURE. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE AUTHORITY COULD BE GIVEN ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS FOR THE CHARTERING OF THE REQUIRED AIRCRAFT AT HMG'S EXPENSE.

7. ALL EMBASSIES WILL PROBABLY SOON BE CONSIDERING EVACUATION PLANS. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE TWELVE (OR SOON WILL BE) AND WITH CANADIAN AMERICAN AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES. WE ARE NOT AT THIS STAGE THINKING IN TERMS OF A JOINT EVACUATION, BUT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE ABLE TO COOPERATE ON CERTAIN PRACTICAL ASPECTS E.G. CONVOYS TO AIRPORT.

8. GRATEFUL FOR EARLY REPLIES (DESKBY 060001Z).

DONALD

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*From the Private Secretary*

6 June 1989

**CHINA**

The Prime Minister has seen Peking telegram no. 1040 about the possible evacuation of British nationals from Peking. She has commented that we should try to get our students and other nationals out as fast as we can, by scheduled services where possible but by mounting special charters if this is quicker and more efficient. The Ambassador should certainly be given the authority he needs to charter any aircraft required at HMG's expense.

I am copying this letter to Carys Evans (Chief Secretary's Office, H.M. Treasury).

(CHARLES POWELL)

R.N. Peirce, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

**SECRET**