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MESSAGE

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MESSAGE

EAST ASIA BRIEF FOR 31 MAY 1984.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

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1. CHINA - UK - HONG KONG: BEIJING ADOPTS TOUGHER POSITION

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1. CHINA - UK - HONG KONG: BEIJING ADOPTS TOUGHER POSITION

//CHINESE LEADERS ARE TAKING A TOUGHER PUBLIC POSITION ON SENSITIVE ISSUES IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BRITISH OVER HONG KONG'S FUTURE, WHICH RESUMED YESTERDAY. DENG XIAOPING AND PREMIER ZHAO ZIYANG IN THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE AFFIRMED CHINA'S INTENTION--

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Approved for Release

Date OCT 1998

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DESPITE CONTRARY BRITISH ADVICE--TO STATION TROOPS IN HONG KONG IN 1997. IN ADDITION, THE MEDIA IN BEIJING AND ITS OUTLETS IN THE COLONY HAVE CRITICIZED HONG KONG GROUPS FOR URGING THE BRITISH TO NEGOTIATE BETTER TERMS. DENG'S STATEMENT INCLUDED AN UNPRECEDENTED REBUKE OF TWO FORMER MINISTERS FOR RECENTLY MISREPRESENTING CHINA'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.//

//CHINA IS STEPPING UP THE PRESSURE ON THE BRITISH TO ACQUIESCE IN ITS TERMS BEFORE BEIJING'S DEADLINE IN SEPTEMBER. THE CHINESE STATEMENTS ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE SKEPTICISM IN HONG KONG CONCERNING BEIJING'S PROPOSALS, MAY LEAD TO MORE CAPITAL FLIGHT FROM THE COLONY, AND MAY PROMPT MORE PEOPLE TO LEAVE.//

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