

GR 300

CONFIDENTIAL

FM F C O 131859Z AUG 79

TO IMMEDIATE PEKING

TELEGRAM NUMBER 457 OF 13 AUGUST

INFO UKMIS GENEVA, HONG KONG, WASHINGTON, TOKYO, PARIS, OTTAWA

*Enter via  
621  
14/8*

YOUR TELNOS 712, 713 AND 715 AND UKMIS GENEVA'S TELNO 403 (NOT TO ALL): M V RUDD BANK

1. PLEASE CONVEY OUR APPRECIATION TO THE MFA FOR THEIR DECISION TO ALLOW THE REFUGEES TO LAND FOR TEMPORARY ASYLUM AND OUR DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE INFORMATION IN YOUR FIRST TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE. ASSUMING THAT CASELLA'S VISIT TO PEKING ENABLES UNHCR TO ACQUIRE THE NECESSARY PROCESSING FACILITIES FOR THE PRESENT REFUGEES, WE HOPE THAT THEY WILL CHANGE THEIR MINDS AND AGREE TO DISEMBARK AT LEAST TEMPORARILY AT SHANGHAI. OUR AIM REMAINS TO LAND THE REFUGEES AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, IF POSSIBLE AT SHANGHAI, TO ENABLE THE RUDD BANK'S CREW TO GO ABOUT THEIR NORMAL BUSINESS UNHINDERED.

2. THE RUDD BANK WILL BE IN SHANGHAI AT LEAST UNTIL 18 AUGUST. WE DO NOT YET KNOW THE TERMS OF THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE SHANGHAI AUTHORITIES AND THE REFUGEES, WHICH LED TO THE REFUGEES' REFUSAL TO DISEMBARK. WE SEE ADVANTAGE IN A VISIT TO SHANGHAI BY CASELLA AND A MEMBER OF YOUR STAFF, DESIGNED TO REASSURE THE REFUGEES THAT UNHCR WILL BE ABLE TO PROCESS AND REGISTER THEM IN CHINA, IF THIS IS IN FACT THE CASE, AND THAT THEY WILL ONLY STAY TEMPORARILY IN CHINA. THIS WOULD ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION WITH THE MASTER. CASELLA WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THIS IDEA WITH YOU (HE MAY CONTACT SULLIVAN) AND TO SEE IF IT CAN FIT WITH HIS OTHER COMMITMENTS.

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3. YOUR FIRST TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE PARA 3(1). WE SEE LITTLE MERIT IN A GUARANTEE THAT THE UK WILL AGREE TO ACCEPT ANY OF THE REFUGEES WHO ARE NOT ACCEPTED ELSEWHERE, GIVEN THAT SO MANY OF THEM WISH TO GO TO THE US, CANADA AND FRANCE (YOUR SECOND TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE). THIS WOULD IN ANY CASE GIVE US CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY AND CANNOT BE OFFERED TO CASELLA. WE ALSO WISH TO RETAIN THE OPTION OF GETTING THE JAPANESE TO ACCEPT THEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH MR SONODA'S UNDERTAKING AT GENEVA. IT WOULD NOT IN ANY CASE BE IN THE INTERESTS OF ANY OF THE REFUGEES HOPING TO SETTLE IN THE USA, IF A BRITISH OFFER WERE MADE TO THEM: IF THEY FELL IN A LOWER US CATEGORY, THEY WOULD THEN BE DISQUALIFIED BY HAVING AN OFFER FROM ELSEWHERE.

GARRINGTON

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