

GRS 620
UNCLASSIFIED
FM PARIS 221545Z SEP 80
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 816 OF 22 SEPTEMBER 1980
AND TO PRIORITY ATHENS (FOR INGHAM WITH PM'S PARTY)

Prime Minister

To see all

MAD

MY TELNO 815:

ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT, 19 SEPTEMBER: FURTHER REPORT ON FRENCH
PRESS REACTIONS

1. RADIO AND TV FOLLOWED THE VISIT CLOSELY ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY MORNING, FOCUSING THEIR ATTENTION ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONALITY. THE PRESS CONTINUED ITS INTEREST IN THE SUMMIT OVER THE WEEKEND, DEPICTING AN IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH REAL DIFFERENCES REMAIN. SAMPLE HEADLINES TODAY ARE: "GISCARD-THATCHER: THINGS GOING BETTER" (IN THE CATHOLIC DAILY LA CROIX) AND "FRANCE-GB: THAW IN PASTEL SHADES" (IN THE FINANCIAL DAILY LES ECHOS). THE COMMUNIST L'HUMANITE STRIKES A QUITE DIFFERENT NOTE IN AN ARTICLE WHICH SUGGESTS THAT MRS THATCHER'S AIM WAS TO DRAG FRANCE INTO "A TRIUMVIRATE DOMINATED BY THE UNITED STATES WHERE BRITAIN AND GERMANY, WITH THEIR FORCES INTEGRATED IN NATO, WOULD PUT AN END TO ANY POSSIBILITY OF INDEPENDENT FRENCH ACTION".

2. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ARTICLE IS LE MONDE'S LEADER OF 21/22 SEPTEMBER HEADED "CORDIAL UNDERSTANDING AND MISUNDERSTANDING" (ENTENTE ET MESENTENTE CORDIALES). DESCRIBING THE MEETING AS "A SUMMIT OF REDISCOVERY", IT CONTRASTS MRS THATCHER'S "CAMPAIGN OF CORDIALITY" WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD'S "RESERVED COURTESY" AND GOES ON TO NOTE THAT, ALTHOUGH DISCUSSION OF CONTROVERSIAL COMMUNITY QUESTIONS WAS AVOIDED IN PARIS, THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES OF APPROACH APPEARED CLEARLY IN THE SPEECHES AT BORDEAUX. "THE DIALOGUE OF THE DEAF CONTINUES, SWEETENED ONLY BY THE CHATEAU YQUEM", IT QUOTES A GUEST AS SAYING. NOTING AS MERIT-WORTHY THE PRIME MINISTER'S WARMTH ON EUROPE, THE LEADER GOES ON TO CONTRAST THE REMARKS ABOUT A VARIABLE GEOMETRY EUROPE MADE BY M BARRE AND M CHABAN-DELMAS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT THAT A COMMUNITY WITHOUT FRANCE AND BRITAIN AS FULL MEMBERS WAS INCONCEIVABLE. IT CONCLUDES: "AFTER THE ELYSEE SUMMIT THE STORM CLOUDS ARE NOT THEREFORE DISPERSED. M GISCARD D'ESTAING AND MRS THATCHER WERE ALL THE MORE RIGHT TO PUT THE ACCENT ON WHAT SHOULD, AND INDEED AT THE MOMENT DOES, BRING FRANCE AND BRITAIN CLOSER TOGETHER, I.E. EVERYTHING WHICH IS NOT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY EUROPE".

13. IN A PAGE

3. IN A PAGE OF ACCOMPANYING ARTICLES, LE MONDE SUMMARISES AT PRECISELY EQUAL LENGTH THE SPEECHES MADE BY THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS AT BORDEAUX AND ANALYSES THE STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS AT THE ELYSEE. DELARUE, THE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, CONCLUDES THAT DEFENCE WAS CERTAINLY DISCUSSED, AND THAT "TODAY LONDON'S VIEW OF AMERICAN POLICY IS AS CRITICAL AND ANXIOUS AS THAT OF PARIS AND BONN".

4. FEW ARTICLES HAVE AS YET REPORTED THE RESULTS OF THE BORDEAUX CONFERENCE. VERNAY IN TODAY'S FIGARO CONCLUDES THAT THE MAIN SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS WAS IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION (HE WAS, OF COURSE, IN THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION). HE COMMENTS THAT THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF MANY BRITISH PARTICIPANTS AT M BARRE'S REMARKS ON A TWO SPEED EUROPE CAST A CLOUD OVER THE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS. IN TODAY'S MONDE ANDRE FONTAINE (ALSO A PARTICIPANT IN THE CONFERENCE) SAYS THAT MRS THATCHER'S SPEECH SHOWED HER CAPABLE OF LYRICISM AND HUMOUR WHILE M BARRE'S, WHICH HAD THE EFFECT OF A COLD SHOWER, MADE ONE THINK OF BEGIN'S REPLY TO SADAT IN JERUSALEM. COMMENTING ON BRITISH JEALOUSY OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN PARTNERSHIP, HE IS STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT THE SUGGESTION OF A TREATY BASIS FOR FRANCO-BRITISH RELATIONS CAME FROM THE BRITISH RATHER THAN THE FRENCH SIDE, AND THAT IT WAS THE BRITISH WHO SPOKE MOST WARMLY OF EUROPE. HE ALSO NOTES THAT BRITAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO WORRY THE FRENCH AND DOUBTS WHETHER THE FRANCO-BRITISH COOPERATION OVER DEFENCE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER SUGGESTED WILL MATURE EXCEPT OVER ARMS PRODUCTION. HE LISTS THE MORE PROMISING SPECIFIC FIELDS FOR COOPERATION IDENTIFIED BY THE CONFERENCE, CONCLUDING THAT IT REMAINED FOR GOVERNMENTS TO SHOW THAT THERE WAS THE NECESSARY WILL TO DO THESE THINGS.

5. THERE IS LIKELY TO BE MORE COVERAGE OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE WEEKLIES. THIS WILL BE REPORTED IN DUE COURSE.

HIBBERT.

FCO/WHITEHALL.

WED

[NOT ADVANCED]

2