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INFO SAVING TO BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG
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ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT, 19 SEPTEMBER: FRENCH PRESS REACTIONS

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S PHRASE "THE ENTENTE CORDIALE IS IN GOOD HEART" IS EVERYWHERE GIVEN PROMINENCE IN TODAY'S FRENCH PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE SUMMIT MEETING. THE HEADLINES ARE WARM IN TONE: "FRANCO-BRITISH THAW" (LE FIGARO, RIGHT WING); "DEFENCE: FRANCO-BRITISH POLE OF UNDERSTANDING" (LE MATIN, SOCIALIST); "A CORDIAL AND TACTICAL UNDERSTANDING" (LE QUOTIDIEN, (LEFT OF CENTRE). THE PRIME MINISTER IS DESCRIBED AS "A CONVINCED EUROPEAN" (LE MATIN). THE GENERAL FEELING IS THAT BOTH SIDES HAD MUCH TO GAIN FROM AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS AT THE PRESENT MOMENT. LE FIGARO'S FRONT PAGE CARTOON HAS GISCARD READING FROM AN ENGLISH GRAMMAR "THE PEN OF MY DETENTE..." WHICH IS TAKEN UP BY MRS THATCHER, CARRYING A PICTURE OF UNCLE SAM, "...IS LIGHTER THAN THE WEIGHT OF MY UNCLE".
2. LE FIGARO DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT DIFFICULTIES STILL EXIST BY LISTING THE POINTS OF CONTENTION WITHIN THE EC. HOWEVER, THE PRESS GENERALLY REPORTS ON COMMUNITY ASPECTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN A BALANCED WAY. LE FIGARO QUOTES M. LE THEULE AS SAYING THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON BOTH LAMB AND FISHERIES AND LE MATIN ADDS THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD, FOR HIS PART, "DID NOT SEEM DISSATISFIED WITH THE COURSE THE CONVERSATIONS TOOK".
3. ONLY LE MATIN REPORTS ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S BORDEAUX SPEECH IN ANY DETAIL, EMPHASISING THE DEFENCE POINT: "MARGARET THATCHER ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT AT BORDEAUX THAT BRITAIN WAS READY AT ANY TIME TO DEVELOP FULLER AND CLOSER COOPERATION WITH FRANCE OVER DEFENCE MATTERS". JEAN-LOUIS ARNAUD'S COMMENT CONCLUDES "IT IS PERHAPS IN THIS PROMISE, IF IT IS FOLLOWED BY RESULTS, THAT ONE MUST SEEK AT THE PRESENT MOMENT THE BASIS FOR A GENUINE RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN FRANCE AND BRITAIN". HENRI DE KERGOYAN IN LE FIGARO ALSO QUOTES THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFER OF "FULLER AND CLOSER COOPERATION" (OMITTING SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DEFENCE) AND ADDS "THERE IS A BRITISH OVERTURE THAT WILL NOT FAIL TO BE NOTED IN PARIS".

FCO PSE PASS TO ALL SAVING ADDRESSEES

HIBBERT

FCO/WHITEHALL
WED

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED