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SIR RUPERT SPEIR

FOLLOWING APPEARED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1981:

QUOTE

MRS. THATCHER IS CONFIDENT OF CLOSE TIES WITH REAGAN

LONDON, FEB. 16 - PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER SAID TODAY THAT SHE EXPECTED THE TRADITIONAL 'SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP' BETWEEN BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES TO BE ENHANCED BY THE FACT THAT SHE AND PRESIDENT REAGAN PERSONALLY WERE IN AGREEMENT ON SO MANY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES.

'IT HELPS IF WE KNOW THAT WE BOTH SHARE THE SAME VIEWS,' SHE SAID AT A MEETING WITH AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS HERE HELD IN ANTICIPATION OF A THREE DAY VISIT SHE WILL MAKE TO THE UNITED STATES NEXT WEEK.

'THERE SHOULD BE A PARTICULARLY HAPPY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, BETWEEN THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT,' SHE SAID. 'YOU'VE ONLY TO LOOK AT HIS SPEECHES AND MINE. THERE ARE THINGS IN COMMON, AND A VERY GOOD THING, TOO. WE'RE BOTH RIGHT.'

MRS. THATCHER'S NEWS CONFERENCE, WHICH RANGED OVER SUCH SUBJECTS AS THE SOVIET THREAT TO POLAND AND HER GOVERNMENT'S SOUND MONEY APPROACH TO BRITAIN'S SEVERE ECONOMIC RECESSION, WAS ONE OF SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS ON WHICH SHE HAS STRESSED THE SIMILARITY OF VIEWPOINT BETWEEN HERSELF AND THE PRESIDENT.

'THE SAME VIEW ABOUT DEMOCRACY'

'HE TAKES THE SAME VIEW ABOUT DEMOCRACY THAT I DO - THAT IT WORKS BEST WHEN GOVERNMENT DOESN'T TAKE OVER TOO MANY FUNCTIONS, BUT LEAVES THE MAJORITY IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE,' SHE SAID IN A RECENT RADIO INTERVIEW. IN A SPEECH LATE LAST MONTH, JUST A WEEK AFTER MR. REAGAN'S INAUGURATION, THE CONSERVATIVE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT 'PRESIDENT REAGAN AND HIS ADMINISTRATION HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE CHALLENGE' FROM THE SOVIET UNION, AND SHE DECLARED:

'IF WE ARE SAFE TODAY, IT IS BECAUSE AMERICA HAS STOOD WITH US. IF WE ARE TO REMAIN SAFE TOMORROW, IT WILL BE BECUASE AMERICA REMAINS POWERFUL AND SELF-CONFIDENT.'

IN COMMON WITH SOME OTHER EUROPEAN LEADERS, PRIME MINISTER THATCHER IS PARTICULARLY PLEASED AT THE SELECTION OF ALEXANDER M. HAIG JR. AS SECRETARY OF STATE. THE BRITISH EXPECT MR. HAIG TO BRING A COHERENCE AND CONTINUITY THAT THEY FOUND LACKING IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S FOREIGN POLICY. ASKED TODAY ABOUT THAT COMPARISON, MRS. THATCHER AVOIDED CRITICIZING - OR EVEN MENTIONING - FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER, BUT SAID:

'I THINK WE'RE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE GENERAL HAIG, WHO, AFTER ALL, KNOWS EUROPE AND NATO EXTREMELY WELL. I THINK THAT HE WILL BRING A DIMENSION OF EXPERIENCE WHICH IS UNIQUE.'

REALISTIC STANCE TOWARD SOVIET

MRS. THATCHER, WHOSE ANTI-SOVIET STANCE LED THE RUSSIANS SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO CALL HER THE 'IRON LADY', FEELS HERSELF PARTICULARLY IN SYMPATHY WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VIEW OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

'YOU HOPE VERY MUCH FOR DETENTE,' SHE SAID TODAY. BUT YOU HAVE TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF YOUR POTENTIAL ENEMY - A DISPASSIONATE ASSESSMENT. DETENTE HAS TO BE A TWO-WAY BUSINESS. FRANCE HAS ALWAYS FELT, SINCE DE GAULLE'S TIME, THAT SHE HAD SOMETHING OF A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. WE DON'T FEEL THAT WAY.'

ASKED ABOUT THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFGHANISTAN AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SIMILAR ACTION IN POLAND, THE 55-YEAR OLD PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE WESTERN ALLIES NEEDED TO FORGE A MECHANISM THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO 'SPRING INTO ACTION' IF NEEDED, BUT SHE DECLINED TO BE ANY MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ECONOMY, WHERE HER VIEWS AND PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ESPECIALLY COINCIDE, MRS. THATCHER TODAY SOUNDED WHAT HAS BECOME A VERY FAMILIAR RALLYING CRY DURING HER NEARLY TWO YEARS IN OFFICE: 'YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE HONEST MONEY, THAT IS, TRYING TO KEEP THE SUPPLY OF MONEY IN LINE WITH YOUR SUPPLY OF GOODS AND SERVICES, WHICH IS THE ONLY TRUE BACKING OF YOUR CURRENCY.'

TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON FEB. 25

PRIME MINISTER THATCHER, WHO IS TO BE THE FIRST HEAD OF A MAJOR ALLIED COUNTRY TO VISIT PRESIDENT REAGAN SINCE HIS INAUGURATION, WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON FEB. 25. AFTER TWO DAYS THERE, INCLUDING WHITE HOUSE TALKS AND TWO FORMAL DINNERS WITH THE REAGANS, SHE WILL GO TO NEW YORK ON FEB. 28.

IN NEW YORK, SHE WILL HAVE LUNCH WITH DAVID ROCKEFELLER AND ATTEND A BANQUET AT THE WALDORF-ASTORIA HOTEL, WHERE SHE IS TO RECEIVE THE DONOVAN AWARD, A MEDAL NAMED FOR THE HEAD OF THE WORLD WAR II OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES AND GIVEN, ACCORDING TO HER OFFICE HERE, FOR 'DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE INTEREST OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.'

AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY ON FEB. 27, AND THEN AT THE AWARD DINNER IN NEW YORK THE NEXT EVENING, MRS. THATCHER IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE THE SECOND AND THIRD IN A SERIES OF SPEECHES THAT HER OFFICE IS DESCRIBING AS A BROAD, THREE-PART INTERPRETATION OF THE BRITISH-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP.

THE FIRST IN THE SERIES, MADE IN LONDON LATE LAST MONTH, STRESSED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY INTO A STRONGER POLITICAL ALLIANCE. QUOTING WINSTON CHURCHILL ON THAT OCCASION, SHE SAID, 'THERE IS ONE GRAND, VALIANT CONVICTION SHARED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC - THAT TOGETHER THERE IS NO PROBLEM WE CANNOT SOLVE.' AND THEN SHE ADDED:

'IT IS STILL A FITTING AND LIVING MESSAGE FOR THE PRIME MINISTER OF BRITAIN TO CARRY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.'

UNQUOTE