

GRS 220

UNCLASSIFIED

FM PARIS 111800Z DEC 81

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1113 OF 11 DECEMBER

INFO SAVING TEL AVIV, BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LUXEMBOURG, ROME, UKREP BRUSSELS, ATHENS, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, CAIRO, JEDDA.

MY TEL NO 1089: FRANCE AND THE MIDDLE EAST

1. THE FRENCH PRESS HAS GIVEN GOOD COVERAGE TO THE ADVERSE REACTIONS IN THE ARAB WORLD AND IN OTHER EUROPEAN CAPITALS TO M. CHEYSSON'S ORATORY.
2. CRITICISM OF M. CHEYSSON HAS TENDED TO FIRM UP A LITTLE. LE MATIN ON 11 DECEMBER, WHILE WELCOMING THE POLICY OF BEING FRIENDS WITH ALL SIDES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SAYS IT IS A POLICY REQUIRING DISCRETION, WHICH IS NOT THE FORTE OF M. CHEYSSON. THE PAPER SEES MERIT IN BEING FRANK BUT CONSIDERS THAT THIS TIME M. CHEYSSON HAS DROPPED A BRICK.
3. UNDER THE HEADLINE "WHERE IS THE MISTAKE AND THE ABSURDITY?", THIS AFTERNOON'S LE MONDE REPORTS SCEPTICALLY M. CHEYSSON'S CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED. IT QUOTES THE KEY PASSAGE ON THE VENICE DECLARATION IN M. CHEYSSON'S RADIO INTERVIEW, COMMENTING THAT THE CONTEXT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT M. CHEYSSON WAS INDEED CONDEMNING THE ANTI-CAMP DAVID NATURE, AS HE SAW IT, OF VENICE. LE MONDE ALSO POINTS OUT THAT VENICE WAS CAUTIOUSLY WORDED AND THAT SO FAR THE TEN HAVE NOT ACTUALLY EMBARKED ON AN "INITIATIVE", IMPLYING THAT IT IS M. CHEYSSON WHO HAS MISINTERPRETED VENICE.
4. THE OPPOSITION PRESS HAS CRITICISED M. CHEYSSON EVEN MORE ROUNDLY. LE QUOTIDIEN ON 10 DECEMBER SAID THAT FRENCH POLICY WAS CONTRADICTIONARY AND FRENCH DIPLOMACY LOSING ALL CREDIBILITY.
5. FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES.

HIBBERT

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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