

Hungary file

ENDRE ACIEL: (HUNGARIAN PRESS RADIO AND TV+) PRIME MINISTER, YOU'RE THE FIRST EVER HEAD OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN HISTORY TO PAY A VISIT TO HUNGARY, SO WE HAVE A REASON TO SAY THAT IT'S A SORT OF PIONEERING ENTERPRISE. FIRST LET ME PUT THIS TO YOU, WHERE ACTUALLY HUNGARY IS ON GREAT BRITAIN'S MAP OF THE WORLD? AND WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO MERGE FROM THIS FIRST PIONEERING VISIT TO YOU COUNTRIES TO MY COUNTRY?

MRS. THATCHER: WELL, NOW FIRST WHEN I HEARD THAT NO OTHER BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN TO HUNGARY I WAS AMAZED, AND I'M VERY HAPPY TO REPAIR THE OMISSION, I WANT TO COME, I PERSONALLY HAVE NEVER BEEN WHEN WE HAD A VISIT TO LONDON LAST YEAR OF YOUR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MR. (MORIORI) IT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL AND I ENJOYED TALKING TO HIM, HUNGARY MEANS QUITE A LOT TO PEOPLE IN BRITAIN, WE KNOW HER HISTORY, WE KNOW THE GREAT TALENT OF HER PEOPLE AND SHE'S WE'RE BOTH EUROPEAN, AND HUNGARY ESPECIALLY IS A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF CENTRAL EUROPE. I BELIEVE THAT THE MORE WE VISIT THE GREATER OUR UNDERSTANDING AND THE GREATER OUR UNDERSTANDING THE BETTER IT WILL BE FOR ALL PEOPLES.

E. ACIEL: YES AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COMPLIMENTS. BRITISH AND HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS AGREE THAT RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN INDEED A VERY GOOD PROGRESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, SO THAT THERE IS A WISH APPARENTLY ON BOTH SIDES TO GIVE A FURTHER IMPETUS TO THOSE RELATIONS, MAINLY IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE. SO I WOULD ASK YOU WHAT DO YOU THINK THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THE BRITISH INDUSTRY AND INDEED HUNGARY, COULD OR SHOULD DO IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THIS?

MRS. THATCHER: I THINK WE HAVE CO-OPERATED AT THREE LEVELS. FIRST I THINK OUR BANKS HAVE BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO ONE ANOTHER DURING A PERIOD OF WORLD RECESSION AND I THINK THERE'S A GOLDEN DEAL OF MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN THE PEOPLE IN YOUR COUNTRIES AND OURS AND THAT'S BEEN HELPFUL WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, I THINK THEN WE CO-OPERATE THROUGH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY,

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BECAUSE WE DO QUITE A LOT OF OUR TRADE THROUGH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND WE BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY NOT IN HAVING SO MUCH STRICT BOUNDARIES ROUND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, BUT AS USING IT AS A COMMUNITY WITH WHICH TO DEVELOP OUR TRADE OUTSIDE, AND DEVELOP OUR CONTACTS OUTSIDE: AND, THIRDLY, IN A BILATERAL WAY BETWEEN HUNGARY AND BRITAIN, WE EXPORT QUITE A LOT TO HUNGARY AND SOME OF OUR

FIRMS ARE WORKING IN HUNGARY AND IN APRIL WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING CALLED HUNGARIAN DAYS IN LONDON AND WE BELIEVE THAT YOU'LL BE STUDYING THE THINGS THAT WE BUY AND THAT YOU'LL THINK ABOUT SOME VERY WONDERFUL THINGS THAT YOU'RE EXPERT AT PRODUCING.

EGMAC EL: YES, NOW BEYOND THE SCOPE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS THERE ARE THE MULTILATERAL ONES, THE INTERNATIONAL ONES THAT ARE VERY MUCH THE CONCERN OF ALMOST ALL GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE I THINK, LET ME REFER AT THIS POINT TO STOCKHOLM, THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE, IN YOUR VIEW, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FIRST ROUND AT STOCKHOLM OR MAYBE IN CONSEQUENCE OF IT, ARE THE CHANCES OF AN INTENSIFICATION OF EAST/WEST CONTACTS BIGGER THAN BEFORE?

MRS. THATCHER: I HOPE SO, I WANT IT TO BE THAT WAY, I THINK IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE NOW AND THERE ARE SO MANY COUNTRIES THERE, WE'RE A LITTLE BIT STUCK ON THINGS LIKE GETTING ARMAMENTS AGREEMENTS NOW, GETTING REDUCTIONS IN ARMAMENTS WHICH WE ALL WANT AND I HAVE A VIEW THAT YOU'RE MUCH, MUCH MORE LIKELY TO GET A REDUCTION IN ARMAMENTS WHEN YOU'==3 395 - .7:£ 735534 7,+ NR TEN LON

WHEN YOU'VE GOT A MUCH BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONS, I HOLD VERY FIRMLY TO BRITISH BELIEFS, TO OUR WAY OF LIFE, I WILL ALWAYS ARGUE THE CASE FOR THE THINGS IN WHICH WE BELIEVE AND I WILL ALWAYS DEFEND IT VERY VIGOROUSLY, BUT I HOLD EQUALLY STRONGLY THAT THOUGH OTHER PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS FROM US, = 23 .7'5 NEVE

THELESS HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND WE MUST CO-OPERATE BETWEEN US AND I THINK IT'S THE LACK OF THAT UNDERSTANDING WHICH IS BEGINNING TO BOTHER US A LITTLE AND WHEN WE GET THAT BETTER UNDERSTANDING THAT WE SHALL ACHIEVE MORE AGREEMENTS IN THE OTHER SPHERES.

E. ACZEL: NOW COMING TO THE QUESTION OF THE DIALOGUE, LET ME ASK YOU ON YOUR SO-CALLED CONVERSION - DO YOU ACCEPT THE EAST/WEST POPULAR NOTION THAT NOW YOU HAVE BEEN CONVERTED TO THE IDEA OF MORE TOP LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST?

MRS. THATCHER: I WOULDN'T NECESSARILY CALL IT A CONVERSION, I MADE A SPEECH ABOUT IT LAST SEPTEMBER AND I HAVE DONE QUITE A BIT OF VISITING MYSELF IN MY TIME, I THINK I FIRST WENT TO MOSCOW IN 1968, I HAVE VISITED A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, BUT YOU KNOW SOMETIMES THE TIME ISN'T QUITE RIGHT FOR VISITS, THINGS HAPPEN INTERNATIONALLY WHICH MAKE THE TIME NOT QUITE SO GOOD AND THEN THE TIME COMES ROUND AGAIN WHEN YOU CAN HAVE ADVANCES IN RELATIONS. WHEN THAT TIME DOES COME ROUND ONE HAS TO GRASP IT, THERE IS SUCH A TIME NOW AND I HOPE THAT WE SHALL MEET, SEE ONE ANOTHER'S COUNTRIES, AND TALK FREELY AND I MUST STRESS THIS, I KNOW IN THE MEDIA YOU ALWAYS WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE'VE TALKED ABOUT AND EXACTLY WHAT WE'VE SAID, BUT, YOU KNOW, THE TALKS BETWEEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ARE AT THEIR MOST VALUABLE WHEN EACH CAN BE CERTAIN THAT THEY WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL. SO, YES, WE SHALL SEE

AND TALK A LOT BUT THE TALKS, MANY OF THE TALKS WHICH I HAVE WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL AND IT MUST BE THAT WAY, IF THEY'RE TO BE MOST VALUABLE.

E. ACZEL: YES, YOU REFER TO ONE OF YOUR STATEMENTS OR SPEECHES - CAN I REFER NOW TO THE ONE YOU MADE ON THE GRENADA ISSUE, - , E

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CAN I REFER NOW TO THE ONE YOU MADE ON THE GRENADA ISSUE, AND I FEEL THAT WHILE SEEKING SENSIBLE DIALOGUE, AS YOU PUT IT, WITH THE EAST, MEANWHILE YOU HAPPEN TO DISASSOCIATE YOURSELF FROM THE US ACTION ON GRENADA

, WHICH WAY ARE THE TWO RELATED IF AT ALL?

MRS. THATCHER: I DON'T REALLY THINK THEY ARE RELATED, I TOOK A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VIEW ON GRENADA, = 73: -7'3 8 ' -2 85 749. - DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE. I THINK PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS VERY, VERY INFLUENCED BY THE REQUEST OF ALL THE OTHER EASTERN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, THEY HAD A VERY SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GRENADA, THEY KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING THERE, THERE WAS A LOT OF SHOOTING, THERE WERE ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE SUCCESSION AND THEY FELT THAT SOMEONE MUST GO IN TO HELP AND PRESIDENT REAGAN LISTENED VERY MUCH TO THEM AND I THINK HE WAS INFLUENCED BY THEM. I SAW IT FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE, = 975 2&3, 043'8+

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SPECTIVE, BUT WHEN PRESIDENT REAGAN TOOK THE UNITED STATES FORCES INTO RENADA, THE PEOPLE WERE VERY PLEASED TO SEE THEM AND AS YOU KNOW THE COMBAT TROOPS ARE NOW OUT OF GRENADA JUST A COMPARATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF MILITARY POLICE THERE AND THEY ARE PREPARING FOR ELECTIONS WITHIN A YEAR'S TIME. SO IT HAS TURNED OUT VERY WELL FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE PEOPLE OF GRENADA, THEY ARE VERY PLEASED.

E. AC EL: YES. NOW WITH YOUR PERMISSION LET'S PUT A QUESTION OR TO DIVERT A BIT THIS CONVERSATION TO WORLD ECONOMY. YOU HAVE

A LOT OF PRIME CONCERN MANY LAYS, NOW CAN I ASK YOU WHICH IS THE NUMBER ONE PROBLEM WHICH AFFECTS YOUR COUNTRY AND ALSO WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT IS YOUR VISION OF A HEALTHY WORLD ECONOMY, OF HOW TO SUSTAIN IT, WITH MAXIMUM GROWTH, MINIMUM UNEMPLOYMENT AND ALSO MINIMIM INFLATION?

MRS GM THATCHER: YOU WANT THE MAXIMUM GROWTH THAT YOU CAN GET WITHOUT INFLATION, BECAUSE IF YOU GET INFLATION YOU'LL FIND IT WILL SOON STUNT THE GROWTH AND ALSO IT'S VERY IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE TO FEEL CONFIDENCE IN THE CURRENCY OF THEIR COUNTRY, SO THAT

THEY CAN SAVE IT AND WHEN THEY COME TO SPEND IT IN MANY YEARS TIME IT SHOULD STILL HAVE A SIMILAR

VALUE. SO CONFIDENCE IN YOUR CURRENCY IS VERY VERY IMPORTANT INDEED PARTICULARLY FOR NATIONS THAT DEAL IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE. HAVING SAID THAT, WHAT YOU WANT AS WELL IS PEOPLE WHO CAN CREATE THE NEW WEALTH, THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF DEMAND

IN THE WORLD, WE ALL WANT A HIGH

STANDARD OF LIVING AND REALLY THE PROBLEM THAT FACES THE LEADERS OF COUNTRIES IS HOW DO TO ARRANGE OUR ECONOMIES THAT WE ARE ABLE TO SATISFY THE NEEDS

AND ASPIRATIONS OF OUR PEOPLES AND HOW TO REWARD THEIR EFFORTS SO THAT THEY CAN DO IT FOR THEMSELVES. IT HASN'T BEEN EASY THROUGH A WORLD RECESSION CAUSED MAINLY BY THE SHARP RISE IN OIL PRICES, I THINK WE'VE ABSORBED THOSE NOW AND WE'RE NOW IN A POSITION TO LOOK FORWARD TO A NEW PERIOD OF GROWTH AND TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT.

E. AC EL: EVERYONE WILL BENEFIT OF IT, YOU THINK SO.... THIRD WORLD.....

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MRS. THATCHER: EVERYONE I THINK WILL BENEFIT. OH YES, THE THIRD WORLD HAS TO BENEFIT, WE'RE ALL DEPENDENT ON ONE ANOTHER AND NATURALLY THEY TOO WANT A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING FOR THEIR PEOPLE.

E. ACZEL: YES, WOULD YOU PERMIT ME A SORT OF PERSONAL QUESTION FINALLY, SINCE YOU ARE

THE ONLY WOMAN LEADING A WORLD POWER, WHICH BRITAIN IS, DID YOU EVER

FEEL IMPEDED OR THE OTHER WAY AROUND, ENCOURAGED, - BY THE FACT THAT YOU ARE A WOMAN, OR IT JUST MADE NO DIFFERENCE, IN FULFILLING THE TASK YOU SET FOR YOURSELF?

MRS. THATCHER: WELL, FIRST LET ME SAY THAT OF COURSE MRS. GANDHI IS HEAD OF A VERY POWERFUL COUNTRY, INDIA, SHE AND I GET ON VERY WELL TOGETHER. IT'S DIFFICULT FOR ME TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, I'VE ONLY EVER BEEN A WOMAN PRIME MINISTER

I CAN'T BE A MAN PRIME MINISTER SO I DON'T KNOW HOW IT COMPARES. I CAN JUST SAY THAT I LIKE THE JOB AND I HOPE I CONTINUE DOING IT FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

E. ACZEL: I WISH YOU WELL TO THAT AND, PRIME MINISTER, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THIS INTERVIEW.

MRS. THATCHER: IT'S A PLEASURE AND I SO MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO MY VISIT.

BRACKETS INDICATE PHONETIC SPELLING FOR UNCONFIRMED NAME

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