

E12

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RELEASED IN FULL

PAGE 01 LONDON 12370 101129Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-10	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	H-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSO-01	HA-08	L-03	PM-08
	PA-01	INRE-00	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	PRS-01	/059 W
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O 101129Z JUN 83
 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4353
 INFO NATO COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
 EUROPEAN POLADS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY
 AMCONSUL EDINBURGH POUCH
 AMCONSUL BELFAST POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12370

PARIS FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BURT

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, UK
 SUBJECT: BRITISH ELECTIONS: THATCHER DOES IT

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THATCHER HAS WON AN OVERWHELMING PARLIAMENTARY VICTORY. HER TRIUMPH RESULTED FROM THREE FACTORS: SHE HELD HER 1979 POPULAR VOTE (BUT DID NOT ADD TO IT), ONE-FOURTH OF THE LABOR VOTE DEFECTED TO THE ALLIANCE, AND THE FIRST PAST THE POST ELECTORAL SYSTEM OPERATED REMORSELESSLY IN HER FAVOR AND AGAINST THE ALLIANCE.
3. WITH 90 PERCENT OF THE VOTE COUNTED, THE TORIES HAVE NOW WON 352 SEATS AND ARE PROJECTED TO GET 398 FOR AN ANTICIPATED OVERALL MAJORITY OF 144. LABOR IS A DISTANT SECOND WITH 198 SEATS IN HAND AND 209 PROJECTED. THE SDP/LIBERAL ALLIANCE IS A DISMAL THIRD, WITH 17 SEATS,

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PAGE 02 LONDON 12370 101129Z

ALL BUT THREE ARE LIBERAL, AND A PROJECTED TOTAL OF ONLY 21.

4. IN POPULAR VOTE:

-- THE TORIES HAVE 42.6 PERCENT, IN '79 IT WAS 43.9 PERCENT.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W FLEISHER
 DATE/CASE ID: 28 MAY 2003 200101860

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-- LABOR HAS 29.5 PERCENT, DOWN FROM 36.9 PERCENT.

- THE ALLIANCE GOT 25.2 PERCENT, UP FROM 13.8 PERCENT, WHICH
- THE LIBERALS GOT IN '79.
- A 10 PERCENT SWITCH TO THE SDP MOSTLY BY LABOR VOTERS
- TOPPED UP THE LIBERAL VOTE ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND COST
- LABOR SEATS EVERYWHERE.

5. FOR LABOR IT WAS A DISASTER. ONE-QUARTER OF THEIR VOTE DISAPPEARED. IT COULD BE THEIR SMALLEST SHARE SINCE 1918. A NUMBER OF PROMINENT M.P.S, IN PARTICULAR TONY BENN, LOST THEIR SEATS. (A TORY WIT HAS OBSERVED THAT FOR LABOR THE BAD NEWS WAS THE ELECTORAL DISASTER, THE GOOD NEWS WAS BENN LOSING HIS SEAT.) LABOR'S ONLY SOLACE IS THE GUTTING OF THE SDP IN PARLIAMENT; LABOR PICKED UP HALF OF THE LOST SDP SEATS.

6. FOR THE ALLIANCE, IT WAS ALSO A DISASTER. THE LIBERALS WON THEIR USUAL GRAB BAG OF SEATS SCATTERED AROUND THE COUNTRY BUT 26 OF 29 SDP M.P.S WERE DEFEATED -- HALF BY LABOR, HALF BY THE TORIES. OF THE "GANG OF FOUR", DAVID OWEN AND ROY JENKINS SURVIVED.

7. FOR THE TORIES, IT WAS THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS. ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT IMPROVE THEIR VOTE SHARE, THEY HAVE A 1945-STYLE LANDSLIDE OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS. BUT MORE IMPORTANT, A BATTERED LABOR PARTY HAS BEEN PRESERVED AS THEIR MAIN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 12370 101129Z

OPPOSITION WHILE THE SDP HAS BEEN SHATTERED.

8. ATTENTION HERE IS NOW TURNING TO:

- THATCHER'S NEW CABINET WHICH WE HEAR WILL BE NAMED
- PROMPTLY. MANY EXPECT A NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY.
- THE INTERNECINE WAR IN THE LABOR PARTY OVER WHAT WENT
- WRONG AND THE FUTURE OF THE PARTY, WHICH WILL FOCUS ON WHO
- REPLACES MICHAEL FOOT AND WHEN.
- THE DEBATE OVER THE FUTURE OF THE ALLIANCE, IN
- PARTICULAR DOES THE SDP HAVE A FUTURE, IF SO, IN WHAT
- FORM. LOUIS

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