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Date Printed:  
22-Oct-2001

DOC\_NBR: 1987LONDON07515

CHANNEL: n/a  
HANDLING: n/a

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RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.5(D)

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R 081635Z APR 87  
 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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 INFO NATO COLLECTIVE  
 AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOWPOL-EXT// (POUCH)  
 AMCONSUL BELFAST POUCH)  
 AMCONSUL EDINBURGH POUCH)  
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 AMEMBASSY KABUL POUCH)  
 AMEMBASSY PRETORIA POUCH)  
 AMCONSUL CAPETOWN POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 06 LONDON 07515

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

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E.O.12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PREL, KPRP, UK, XA, XE, XF, XK  
 SUBJECT: THE COMING ELECTION IN BRITAIN: OPPOSITION  
 - PERSPECTIVES ON REGIONAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES  
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1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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 2. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION  
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IF THE LABOR PARTY SHOULD CAPTURE A SOLID PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IN THE NEXT ELECTION, EAST-WEST AND SECURITY POLICIES WOULD QUICKLY COME TO DOMINATE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE SAME COULD BE TRUE WITH AN EVEN LESS LIKELY SDP/LIBERAL ALLIANCE MAJORITY, OR A LABOR/ALLIANCE COALITION. WHILE FROM ANY NON-TORY GOVERNMENT WE COULD BEGIN TO SEE UNHELPFUL POLICY CHANGES ON A HOST OF REGIONAL ISSUES, SUCH POLICY EVOLUTION WOULD MOST LIKELY BE MUTED BY THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

-- THE LIKELIHOOD THAT LABOR OR THE ALLIANCE WILL EMERGE FROM THE NEXT ELECTION WITH A MAJORITY IS SLIM AT BEST. ANY NON-TORY GOVERNMENT COULD WELL BE PRECARIOUSLY BALANCED AND COMPARATIVELY SHORT-LIVED (I.E., A LABOR GOVERNMENT HOLDING ON BY A SLIM MAJORITY, A MINORITY LABOR GOVERNMENT BIDDING ITS TIME UNTIL AN EARLY SECOND ELECTION, OR A LABOR PARTY IN FRAGILE COALITION WITH THE ALLIANCE). THUS, REGIONAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES ARE UNLIKELY TO BE THE MAIN FOCUS OF ANY NOW-PLAUSIBLE NON-TORY GOVERNMENT.

-- NEITHER THE PRESENT LABOR PARTY NOR THE ALLIANCE HAS GREAT FOREIGN POLICY DEPTH OR BREADTH. LABOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN DENIS HEALEY WOULD LOOM LARGE -- AND EXERT A COMPARATIVELY MODERATING INFLUENCE -- IN  
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ANY LABOR FOREIGN POLICY CAST, AS WOULD DAVID OWEN FOR THE ALLIANCE. YET THE MANY FOREIGN POLICY NEOPHYTES IN BOTH PARTIES WITH STRONGLY-HELD VIEWS ON FAR-FLUNG ISSUES WOULD PREVENT A SINGLE PERSONALITY IN EITHER PARTY FROM HOLDING DICTATORIAL SWAY.

-- THE FOREIGN OFFICE BUREAUCRACY, WHICH WIELDS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, PARTICULARLY ON MARGINAL ISSUES, COULD BE EXPECTED TO RESTRAIN ANY NEW GOVERNMENT FROM MANY SHARP BREAKS WITH CURRENT POLICY.

-- THE MORE PRAGMATIC LABOR PARTY THINKERS REALIZE THAT DIFFERENCES OVER DEFENSE POLICY WOULD PUT TREMENDOUS STRAINS ON THE US-UK BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, AND WOULD SEEK TO AVOID CONFRONTING THE U.S. GRATUITOUSLY ON LESS CENTRAL ISSUES.

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SCOPE FOR EITHER OPPOSITION PARTY TO ALTER SIGNIFICANTLY  
THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH REGIONAL ISSUES WILL BE PLAYED  
OUT DURING THE TENURE OF THE NEXT BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTIES  
WOULD LIKELY REDIRECT UK POLICY ON SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL  
ISSUES IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

-- LABOR OR THE ALLIANCE WOULD SUPPORT A HARDER LINE  
ON SOUTH AFRICA, INCLUDING OPEN SUPPORT FOR THE ANC,  
DISRUPTING THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP ON THE ISSUE  
BETWEEN THE REAGAN AND THATCHER GOVERNMENTS.

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E.O.12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, KPRP, UK, XA, XE, XF, XK

SUBJECT: THE COMING ELECTION IN BRITAIN: OPPOSITION  
-- IN CENTRAL AMERICA LABOR WOULD BE MORE VOCAL THAN  
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THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN CONDEMNING U.S. SUPPORT FOR  
THE CONTRAS AND MORE APOLOGETIC ABOUT SANDINISTA  
EXCESSES. AS WITH THE ANC, HOWEVER, LABOR'S BACKING FOR  
THE SANDINISTAS WOULD BE MORE RHETORICAL THAN MATERIAL.

-- NEITHER LABOR NOR THE ALLIANCE WOULD CHANGE  
SIGNIFICANTLY THE SUBSTANCE OF THE CURRENT MIDDLE EAST  
POLICY (I.E., SUPPORT FOR JORDAN AND AN INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE) BUT BOTH WOULD UPGRADE RELATIONS WITH THE  
PLO AND PRESS FOR A MORE INDEPENDENT EC ROLE IN THE  
REGION.

-- ALTHOUGH OPPOSED ORIGINALLY TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL  
INTEGRATION, LABOR WOULD LIKELY INTENSIFY COOPERATION  
WITHIN THE EC ON THIRD-WORLD ISSUES RANGING FROM LATIN  
DEBT TO AID TO THE PHILIPPINES. LABOR'S (AND THE  
ALLIANCE'S) AIM WOULD BE TO MAKE WESTERN INVOLVEMENT  
LESS DEPENDENT ON U.S. POLICY AND INITIATIVE.

-- LABOR (AND/OR THE ALLIANCE) WOULD INITIATE  
DISCUSSIONS WITH ARGENTINA WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FALKLANDS  
SOVEREIGNTY.

-- LABOR, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT THE ALLIANCE, WOULD  
TAKE A HIGHER PROFILE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY RIGHTIST  
REGIMES.

-- NEITHER LABOR NOR THE ALLIANCE WOULD SEEK TO ERODE  
WESTERN POSITIONS ON THE MAJOR NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC AND  
TRADE ISSUES.

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-- LABOR WOULD SHOW UP IN A WAY THE TORIES WOULD NEVER  
CONSIDER IN UNGA MAJORITIES AND THIRD-WORLD GATHERINGS.

END SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION

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SOUTHERN AFRICA  
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3. THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT HAS INVESTED POLITICAL CAPITAL IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, FROM LANCASTER HOUSE TO THE COMMONWEALTH EPG AND THE HOWE EC MISSIONS. CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE U.S. HAS BEEN KEY IN ALL THESE EFFORTS. THE TORIES OPPOSE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AS MORE HARMFUL TO BRITAIN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN BLACKS THAN TO THE WHITE SOUTH AFRICA REGIME, BUT WENT ALONG WITH THE MINIMAL EC PACKAGE IN 1986 FOR THE SAKE OF COMMONWEALTH AND EC UNITY.

4. WITH THE SANCTIONS DEBATE BEHIND THEM FOR THE MOMENT, THE GOVERNMENT'S FOCUS IS ON GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE FRONT LINE STATES. WHILE THE FAR RIGHT IN THE UK MIGHT TRY TO RESURRECT SUCH CAUSES AS SUPPORT FOR SAVIMBI AND RENAMO, ISOLATING THE ANC, AND RECOGNITION OF THE HOMELANDS IN A THIRD TERM, THEY WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME TURNING THATCHER AROUND WHEN SHE HAS ALREADY MOVED SUCCESSFULLY IN THE OTHER DIRECTION.

5. LABOR AND THE ALLIANCE BOTH BELIEVE SANCTIONS CAN INFLUENCE PRETORIA. LABOR SEES ITS APPROACH AS STARKLY DIFFERENT FROM THE TORY POLICY. LABOR SAYS THAT, IN GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD PUSH FOR COMPREHENSIVE, MANDATORY SANCTIONS, ALTHOUGH A LABOR ADMINISTRATION WOULD LIKELY DECLINE TO GET TOO FAR OUT IN FRONT OF THE EC, WHICH THEY BELIEVE WOULD TAKE A STRONGER STAND AGAINST SOUTH  
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AFRICA WITHOUT THATCHER KEEPING THE BRAKES ON. WHEN PRESSED, HOWEVER, LABOR SPOKESMEN ARGUE FOR SANCTIONS THAT WOULD INCONVENIENCE THE WHITES RATHER THAN TARGET THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY AND SUGGEST NO SPECIFIC MEASURES THAT WOULD GO BEYOND WHAT THE U.S. HAS DONE.

6. SDP LEADER DAVID OWEN, WIDELY EXPOSED TO THE REGION

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IN THE 1970S, OPPOSES MANDATORY SANCTIONS AND WOULD

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R 081635Z APR 87  
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 PRESS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE FOR A MORE LIMITED APPROACH  
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HANDLING: n/a

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SHOULD THE ISSUE COME UP AGAIN. NONETHELESS, HE HAS BEEN QUICK TO CRITICIZE THATCHER FOR ISOLATING BRITAIN FROM THE COMMONWEALTH AND EC NATIONS WITH HER ANACHRONISTIC AND STUBBORN REJECTION OF SANCTIONS.

7. LABOR AND THE ALLIANCE BELIEVE THE ANC SHOULD BE A LEGAL, RECOGNIZED OPPOSITION PARTY. LABOR SAYS IT WOULD PROVIDE AID TO THE ANC AND SWAPO, THOUGH ONE IS HARD PUT TO IMAGINE ANY BUT HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD. HELPING THE ANC AND SWAPO APPEALS TO SOME IN THE ALLIANCE AS WELL.

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CENTRAL AMERICA  
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8. WHILE BRITONS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM HAVE THE LIMITED UNDERSTANDING OF CENTRAL AMERICA THAT COMES WITH LACK OF PROXIMITY, THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT HAS TRIED TO MINIMIZE OFFICIAL CRITICISM OF U.S. POLICY OUT OF REGARD FOR OUR SENSITIVITIES. THATCHER HAS ACCEPTED THE U.S. NEED TO DRAW A LINE IN THE SAND NEAR OUR SOUTHERN BORDER. WHILE SHE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED WHAT SHE WOULD SEE AS A LESS CLUMSY APPROACH AND MORE CONCERN FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND OPINION, SHE BELIEVES FIRMLY THAT A GOVERNMENT HAS A RIGHT TO SUPPORT FROM FRIENDS AS IT PURSUES SECURITY POLICIES IN ITS OWN PATCH. SHE EXPECTS NO LESS FROM ANY U.S. ADMINISTRATION.

9. LABOR LIKES TO SUGGEST THAT THATCHER HAS BEEN A MORE ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF U.S. POLICY IN CENTRAL AMERICA THAN SHE IN FACT HAS BEEN. LABOR WANTS TO ASSOCIATE THE

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TORIES WITH U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE CONTRAS -- WHICH IS WIDELY UNPOPULAR HERE. THE DEPTH OF FEELING AMONG THE LABOR LEADERSHIP ABOUT U.S. POLICY IN THE REGION WAS TYPIFIED BY NEIL KINNOCK'S ADDRESS TO THE 1986 LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE, WHEN HE DEVOTED MORE ATTENTION TO NICARAGUA THAN TO ANY OTHER REGIONAL ISSUE AND IN STRONGLY VITRIOLIC TERMS. (SEE 86 LONDON 21390).

10. ACCORDINGLY, A LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MUCH MORE VOCAL IN CRITICIZING U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE CONTRAS, AND WHAT THEY WOULD CHARACTERIZE AS AN UNBROKEN HISTORY OF U.S. INTERFERENCE AND REPRESSION IN THE REGION. THE UK'S WILLINGNESS TO AT LEAST ABSTAIN ON SANDINISTA

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BACKED RESOLUTIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS WOULD EVAPORATE, AND IT MIGHT MARGINALLY INCREASE NOW-MINIMAL BILATERAL AID TO NICARAGUA.

11. BASED AS IT IS ON OUTDATED 19TH CENTURY STEREOTYPES OF BANANA REPUBLICS AND U.S. BIG STICKS, LABOR'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CENTRAL AMERICA SEEMS LARGELY UNAFFECTED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION. LABOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMEN SEEM GENUINELY TO BELIEVE THAT ALL CENTRAL AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS (EXCEPT THE SANDINISTAS) CONDONE OR PRACTICE SYSTEMATIC VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARE U.S. PUPPETS. IN A RECENT PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE, LABOR QUESTIONED THE LEGITIMACY OF THE DUARTE GOVERNMENT IN EL SALVADOR, REFERRED TO GUATEMALA'S "NOMINALLY CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT," CALLED HONDURAS AN "OCCUPIED COUNTRY", AND LABELED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE CONTRAS "THE LARGEST EXAMPLE OF STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM IN THE WORLD."

12. WHILE THE ALLIANCE HAS A MORE SOBER VISION OF CENTRAL AMERICA, THEY STILL WOULD BE LESS FORGIVING (THAN THATCHER) OF WHAT THEY SEE AS SLOPPY U.S. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION -- WHILE CONCEDED THE THREAT TO U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERESTS POSED BY NON-DEMOCRATIC, SOVIET/CUBAN SUPPORTED REGIMES TO THE SOUTH. THEY DO NOT SHARE LABOR'S VISCERAL OPPOSITION TO CLOSE U.S. TIES WITH THE CENTRAL AMERICAN DEMOCRACIES, BUT THEY ARE ON RECORD AS CHARGING THAT U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE CONTRAS IS "WHOLLY

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R 081635Z APR 87  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON



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HANDLING: n/a

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9863  
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13. REGARDING BELIZE, THERE APPEARS TO BE SUPPORT  
 ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM AT PRESENT FOR MAINTAINING  
 THE BRITISH GARRISON IN THIS TROUBLED REGION. THE  
 PRESENCE OF UK TROOPS IN BELIZE HAS FIGURED IN RECENT  
 DEVELOPMENTS IN UK-GUATEMALA-BELIZE RELATIONS.

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 THE MIDDLE EAST  
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14. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THATCHER HAS WORKED TO SUSTAIN  
 MOMENTUM, HOWEVER FAINT, TOWARD RESOLUTION OF THE  
 PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN ORDER TO KEEP KING HUSSEIN ON THE  
 THRONE. SHE HAS RECOGNIZED THAT UK/EC ACTION SHOULD  
 COMPLEMENT AN INEVITABLE U.S. LEAD ON WESTERN MIDDLE  
 EAST POLICY, BUT SUPPORTED THE TWIN IDEAS OF PLO  
 PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS AND AN INTERNATIONAL  
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15. OTHER GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT HAVE INCLUDED STANDING FIRM AGAINST TERRORISM, PRESERVING ARAB MARKETS, AND THATCHER'S UNPRECEDENTED PERSONAL POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL.

16. A LABOR GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKELY FOLLOW A SIMILAR POLICY ON SUBSTANCE, BUT WOULD BE LESS FRIENDLY TO ISRAEL (PARTICULARLY IF LIKUD WERE IN POWER THERE TO FURTHER ERODE THE OLD LABOR/LABOR TIE), AND LESS WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT THE U.S. MUST TAKE THE LEAD IN THE PEACE PROCESS. LABOR ALSO WOULD RESIST THE USE OF FORCE IN THE REGION (E.G., THE U.S. LIBYA RAID; ISRAELI AIR STRIKES IN LEBANON), AND CLAIM THE MORAL HIGH GROUND IN

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RHETORICAL DEFENSE OF THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. LABOR WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY UPGRADE THE LEVEL OF HMG CONTACTS WITH THE PLO, AND LOOK FOR AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SYRIA. WE WOULD PROBABLY HEAR MORE ABOUT THE "ROOT CAUSES" OF TERRORISM FROM A LABOR GOVERNMENT.

17. THE ALLIANCE WOULD PRESERVE MORE OF THE TORY SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL ON THE GROUNDS OF NOSTALGIA AND PRAGMATISM, BUT LIKE LABOR WOULD PROBABLY UPGRADE RELATIONS WITH THE PLO. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DAVID OWEN HAS ALSO DONE SOME SERIOUS THINKING ABOUT THE REGION, BUT IS RELUCTANT TO SHOW HIS HAND TOO CLOSE TO AN ELECTION FOR FEAR OF THE "FINCHLEY CONNECTION" (SHORT-HAND FOR THE JEWISH LOBBY IN BRITAIN, CONCENTRATED IN THATCHER'S CONSTITUENCY, WHICH HAS GAINED INCREASED PROMINENCE UNDER THE TORIES). WE EXPECT OWEN WOULD LIKE THE ALLIANCE TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVIST POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST, BEING FRUSTRATED BY THATCHER'S SATISFACTION WITH WORDS OVER DEEDS. HE REALIZES, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NO MAJOR BILATERAL ROLE FOR BRITAIN, AND WILL LOOK FOR WAYS TO PUSH THE EC AND PERHAPS THE COMMONWEALTH TOWARD MORE CONCRETE INVOLVEMENT.

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AFGHANISTAN  
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18. THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN A STALWART PROPONENT OF THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THE ANNUAL UN RESOLUTIONS ON AFGHANISTAN -- WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES, SELF DETERMINATION, RETURN OF REFUGEES, AND A NON-ALIGNED AFGHAN GOVERNMENT -- AND HAS RETAINED A HEALTHY SKEPTICISM ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS.

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19. NONE OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES SHARES THATCHER'S  
GUT LEVEL DELIGHT AT THE THOUGHT OF THE SOVIETS ROTTING  
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IN AFGHANISTAN. LABOR'S APPROACH WOULD LIKELY REFLECT  
THE PARTY'S GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD EAST-WEST MATTERS:  
GIVE GORBACHEV THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT; HE REALLY WANTS  
OUT, AND WE SHOULD PROVIDE THE FACE-SAVING FORMULA.  
LABOR IS ALSO LIKELY TO LOOK MORE SKEPTICALLY AT THE

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Date Printed:  
22-Oct-2001

DOC\_NBR: 1987LONDON07515

CHANNEL: n/a  
HANDLING: n/a

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PARIS ALSO FOR OECD

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, KPRP, UK, XA, XE, XF, XK

SUBJECT: THE COMING ELECTION IN BRITAIN: OPPOSITION  
RESISTANCE, PERHAPS DISCONTINUING THE LIMITED MILITARY  
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ASSISTANCE AND POINTING TO ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. THE ALLIANCE WOULD NOT BE FOOLED BY THE SOVIETS, BUT WOULD ADVOCATE THOROUGH EXPLORATION OF HINTS OF SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE.

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ARGENTINA AND THE FALKLANDS  
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20. THE TORIES HAVE MAINTAINED AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE FALKLANDS IS NOT NEGOTIABLE. THE TORIES ALSO NOTE THAT THE COST OF DEFENDING THE FALKLANDS HAS BEEN DECLINING DRAMATICALLY WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE MOUNT PLEASANT AIRPORT (ENABLING RAPID REINFORCEMENT.) NONETHELESS, LABOR IS COMMITTED TO OPENING NEGOTIATIONS WITH BUENOS AIRES AIMED AT RESTORING BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, REDUCING TENSION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, AND TERMINATING "FORTRESS FALKLANDS." MANY HERE BELIEVE THAT THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL COSTS OF ACTUALLY AGREEING TO A TRANSFER OF FALKLANDS SOVEREIGNTY, HOWEVER, WOULD CAUSE LABOR TO STOP SHORT. THE ALLIANCE ALSO HAS PLEDGED TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH ARGENTINA TO REACH A STABLE SETTLEMENT IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC.

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GIBRALTAR  
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21. GIBRALTAR REMAINS AN OBVIOUS IMPEDIMENT TO A DESIRED IMPROVEMENT IN UK-SPANISH RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH THIS VESTIGE OF EMPIRE MAY APPEAR SIMILAR TO THE FALKLANDS WITH REGARD TO THE SOVEREIGNTY FACTOR, SUCH IS NOT THE  
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HANDLING: n/a

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CASE. EVEN LABOR IS NOT ABOUT TO HAND OVER THE ROCK AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE GIBRALTARIANS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT, UNLIKE THE FALKLANDS AND BUENOS AIRES, HMG IS FORMALLY COMMITTED TO DISCUSSING GIBRALTARIAN SOVEREIGNTY WITH MADRID. THE SPANISH, TOO, REPORTEDLY ARE AWARE THAT LABOR IS LIKELY TO STAY THE COURSE ON GIBRALTAR.

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FAR EAST  
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22. WITH HONG KONG'S FUTURE DETERMINED BY AN AGREEMENT WHICH RECEIVED STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT, THERE ARE FEW REMAINING POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES FOR THE UK IN THE FAR EAST. OPPOSITION PARTIES WOULD BOTH IMPLEMENT THE HONG KONG AGREEMENT, ALLOWING THE EXPERTS TO CONTINUE TO DOT THE I'S ON IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENTS AS 1997 APPROACHES. LIKEWISE, UK PRIORITIES IN THE REGION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE COMMERCIAL. WHILE LABOR MIGHT MAKE MINOR ADJUSTMENTS -- A HIGHER PROFILE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN COUNTRIES LIKE INDONESIA, SUPPORTING THE SPNFZ, MORE PROTECTIONISM AGAINST JAPAN -- THE BASIC THRUST WOULD REMAIN THE SAME. SIMILARLY, THE ALLIANCE DOES NOT ADVOCATE MAJOR CHANGES IN CURRENT POLICY.

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FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
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23. LABOR SEES FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AS GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY AND WOULD PLAN TO SPEND MORE THAN THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT, CLAIMING IT WOULD REDIRECT AID TO THE POOREST ELEMENTS IN THE POOREST COUNTRIES. LABOR BELIEVES THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT IS OUT OF SYNCH WITH PUBLIC OPINION ON AID, AS WITNESSED BY MASSIVE SUPPORT  
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FOR BOB GELDOF'S "LIVE AID" EFFORT GROWING OUT OF THE ETHIOPIAN FAMINE. THIS YEAR'S BUDGET, ANOMALOUSLY BLESSED WITH EXTRA OIL REVENUE, MAKES IT EASY FOR LABOR TO ARGUE THAT THERE ARE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO SUPPORT A MORE GENEROUS APPROACH. IN PRACTICE IT WOULD BE

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Date Printed:  
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DOC\_NBR: 1987LONDON07515

CHANNEL: n/a  
HANDLING: n/a

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	AF-00	CIAE-00
	DODE-00	H-01	MMO-01	IO-19	NEA-06	NSCE-00	ARA-00
	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01
	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	PRS-01	P-02	T-01

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 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9865  
 INFO NATO COLLECTIVE  
 AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOWPOL-EXT// (POUCH)  
 AMCONSUL BELFAST POUCH)  
 AMCONSUL EDINBURGH POUCH)  
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES POUCH)  
 AMEMBASSY MADRID POUCH)  
 AMEMBASSY AMMAN POUCH)  
 AMEMBASSY CAIRO POUCH)  
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV POUCH)  
 AMEMBASSY MANAGUA POUCH)  
 AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD POUCH)  
 AMEMBASSY KABUL POUCH)  
 AMEMBASSY PRETORIA POUCH)  
 AMCONSUL CAPETOWN POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 06 LONDON 07515

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

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 TAGS: PREL, KPRP, UK, XA, XE, XF, XK  
 SUBJECT: THE COMING ELECTION IN BRITAIN: OPPOSITION  
 DIFFICULT, WITH THE MORE USUAL CASE OF MORE DEMANDS ON A  
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SHRINKING BUDGET PIE. LABOR MENTIONS THE FRONT LINE STATES AND NICARAGUA AS RECIPIENTS THEY WOULD TREAT MORE GENEROUSLY THAN THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT.

24. THE ALLIANCE ALSO BELIEVES THAT AID LEVELS SHOULD INCREASE, FOCUSING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE POOREST

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COUNTRIES. THEY ALSO SUPPORT NEW COMMODITIES AGREEMENTS  
AND DEBT RELIEF TO HELP IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES.

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