

GRS 250

UNCLASSIFIED

FM PARIS

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 922

OF 281650Z OCTOBER 85

MY TELNO 882 OF 14 OCTOBER : FABRUS CRITICISES THE UK

SUMMARY

1. FABRUS CRITICISED THE UK'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE DURING A
TELEVISED DEBATE WITH CHIRAC ON 28 OCTOBER.

DETAILS

2. IN THE COURSE OF A TV DEBATE LAST NIGHT WITH CHIRAC, FABRUS AGAIN
MADE DISOBLIGING REMARKS ABOUT THE UK'S ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. AFTER
CHIRAC HAD SAID THAT IF THE RIGHT WON THE ELECTION IN MARCH THEY
WOULD INTRODUCE A PROGRAMME OF PRIVATISATION AND ABOLISH THE
REQUIREMENT FOR OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATION OF REDUNDANCIES, FABRUS SAID
'EVERYTHING YOU PROPOSE, OR NEARLY EVERYTHING, HAS JUST BEEN TRIED
IN GREAT BRITAIN. DENATIONALISATIONS, ABOLITION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR
REDUNDANCIES ... IT'S ALMOST ALL BEEN DONE IN GREAT BRITAIN. AND
WHAT HAS BEEN THE RESULT? UNEMPLOYMENT WAS MORE THAN 3,120,000,
INDUSTRY HAS BEEN DEVASTATED, AND THERE ARE SOCIAL PROBLEMS WHICH
YOU, LIKE MANY OF US, HAVE PROBABLY SEEN ON TELEVISION, SUCH AS THE
RIOTS IN THE CITIES, THE EVENTS IN THE HEYSELI STADIUM, ETC. AND THIS
DESPITE THE FACT THE THE ENGLISH ARE A GREAT PEOPLE AND THAT MRS
THATCHER HAS ENORMOUS DETERMINATION. IT OFFERS A TEST CASE FOR WHAT
YOU WANT TO DO, M. CHIRAC, AND I WANT TO PUT A SPECIFIC QUESTION TO
YOU, ABOUT THIS SORT OF PROGRAMME WHICH CLAIMS TO BE LIBERTARIAN BUT
WHICH IS IN FACT, SIMPLY DESTRUCTIVE'.

3. A LITTLE LATER, WHEN CHIRAC WAS DISCUSSING DENATIONALISATION HE SAID: ''.... M. FABRUS WE ARE TAKING UP POSITIONS DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT FRANCE'S INDUSTRIAL INHERITANCE REMAINS FRENCH ... BY FORBIDDING THE SALE OF MORE THAN 10 TO 20 PERCENT OF OUR INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES TO FOREIGNERS, JUST AS ALL THE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE DENATIONALISING HAVE BEEN DOING, NOTABLY ENGLAND, WHICH YOU HAVE SO SEVERELY CRITICISED ...''.

4. AT THE END OF THE DEBATE FABRUS SAID TO CHIRAC: ''.... YOU HAVE PUT FORWARD SEVERAL NEW IDEAS, BUT THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRIED ELSEWHERE, I AM THINKING PARTICULARLY OF ENGLAND, AND THEY HAVE FAILED''

5. FOR COMMENT SEE MIFT.

FRETWELL

LIMITED

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