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TELNO 757

OF 171717Z SEPTEMBER 85

INFO IMMEDIATE WELLINGTON, CANBERRA,

INFO ROUTINE SUVA, WASHINGTON,

INFO SAVING VILA, PORT MORESBY.

MY TELNO 749 (NOT TO ALL): GREENPEACE.

SUMMARY.

1. LE MONDE HAS RELAUNCHED THE RAINBOW WARRIOR STORY WITH A FRONT PAGE LEADING ARTICLE WHICH ATTRIBUTES THE SINKING TO A THIRD TEAM OF FRENCH MILITARY COMBAT DIVERS.

DETAIL.

2. LE MONDE THIS AFTERNOON CARRIES AS ITS LEAD STORY A NEW AND MORE DETAILED VERSION OF WHO SANK THE RAINBOW WARRIOR. THE CRUX IS THAT IT WAS NEITHER THE SO-CALLED TURENGE COUPLE, NOR THE CREW OF THE OUVEA, BUT A THIRD DGSE TEAM OF COMBAT DIVERS WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FIRST TWO. (THERE HAS BEEN A PREVIOUS REFERENCE IN THE FRENCH PRESS TO A POSSIBLE THIRD TEAM, BUT IT APPEARED HIGHLY SPECULATIVE AND ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION).

3. ACCORDING TO LE MONDE, THIS TEAM WAS COORDINATED BY THE SHADOWNY FIGURE WHO HAS ALREADY SURFACED IN EARLIER PRESS STORIES, CALLED PHILIPPE DUBASTE - A PSEUDONYM FOR COMMANDANT LOUIS-PIERRE DILLAIS, HEAD OF THE DGSE DIVING BASE AT ASPRETTO IN CORSICA. THE TWO DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK ON THE RAINBOW WARRIOR LEFT AUCKLAND BY PLANE, UNNOTICED, ONE FOR NOUMEA, AND THE OTHER FOR SYDNEY. THE TURENGE COUPLE WERE INTENDED TO SERVE AS A LURE FOR THE NEW ZEALANDERS, AND TO DELIVER THE MATERIAL BROUGHT BY THE OUVEA TO THE AUTHORS OF THE EXPLOSION. THE ACTION TEAM MIGHT HAVE COME FROM THE ASPRETTO BASE (SUBORDINATE TO THE ARMY) OR FROM LORIENT (WHERE NAVAL FROGMEN ARE TRAINED), ALTHOUGH THE FORMER IS MORE TRADITIONALLY LINKED TO THE DGSE.

4. AS TO WHO GAVE THE ORDERS, LE MONDE JUDGES THAT THEY COULD ONLY HAVE COME FROM A VERY HIGH LEVEL. THE OFFICERS AND NCOS IN THE 3 TEAMS WOULD HAVE ONLY ACTED ON INSTRUCTIONS. THEIR HIERARCHICAL CHIEF, COL JEAN-CLAUDE LESQUER, HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTION DIVISION OF THE DGSE SINCE NOVEMBER 1984. LE MONDE DOES NOT BELIEVE HIM TO BE A MAN TO ACT ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND NOTES THAT HE WOULD BE UNDER THE DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS OF ADMIRAL PIERRE LACOSTE, HEAD OF THE DGSE. THE LATTER MIGHT RESPOND TO PRESSURES FROM ITS CLIENT, THE DIRECTION DES CENTRES NUCLEAIRES (DIRCEN), WHOSE DIRECTOR UNTIL JUNE 1985 WAS ADMIRAL HENRI FAGES. BUT LACOSTE HIMSELF IS HIGHLY DISCIPLINED AND WOULD NEVER ACT ALONE. LE MONDE SPECULATES THAT TWO VERY SENIOR OFFICERS HAD AUTHORISED AN OPERATION TO GIVE GREENPEACE A WARNING: LACAZE (THEN CDS) AND SAULNIER (THEN CHIEF OF STAFF AT

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THE ELYSEE), TOGETHER WITH HERNU (MINISTER OF DEFENCE). HOWEVER, LE MONDE BELIEVES THAT MITTERRAND HIMSELF WAS NOT INFORMED OF THESE FACTS BY HIS STAFF OR BY HERNU EITHER BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OPERATION.

5. LE MONDE COMMENTS THAT UP TILL NOW, THERE HAS ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE A PIECE MISSING IN THE GREENPEACE PUZZLE: THIS WAS BECAUSE THOSE REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SINKING THE RAINBOW WARRIOR HAD NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED, WHEREAS THE FIVE AGENTS WHO HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED WERE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED. THIS WOULD EXPLAIN THE APPARENT CONFIDENCE OF THE DEFENDERS OF THE TURENGE COUPLE. THE LE MONDE ARTICLE, ALTHOUGH IT GOES INTO CONSIDERABLE DETAIL ABOUT THE MOVEMENTS OF THE TURENGE COUPLE AND THE CREW OF THE OUVEA, DOES NOT PRODUCE ANY CONCRETE PROOF OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE THIRD TEAM. BUT IT CLAIMS THAT THIS VERSION OF THE FACTS IS BASED ON INFORMATION GATHERED FROM A LARGE NUMBER OF RELIABLE SOURCES CLOSE TO THE FRENCH SECRET SERVICES, MEMBERS OF MINISTERIAL CABINETS AND OTHER WITNESSES ON THE INSIDE TRACK. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT LE MONDE (WHICH IN GENERAL TENDS TO SUPPORT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT) WOULD GIVE SUCH PROMINENCE TO THESE NEW REVELATIONS WITHOUT FEELING FAIRLY SURE OF ITS GROUND. IT STATES THAT THE EXISTENCE AND COMPOSITION OF THE THIRD TEAM IS AN OPEN SECRET IN THE FRENCH MILITARY AND POLICE CIRCLES WORKING ON THE AFFAIR.

6. THIS STORY HAS OVERTAKEN, AND SEEMS LIKELY TO BURY, A REVIVED VERSION OF THE BRITISH CONNECTION, CARRIED IN FRANCE SOIR (SEE MIFT).

FRETWELL

FCO PASS SAVING ADDRESSEES

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