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FM PARIS

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 758 OF 171746Z SEPTEMBER 85

INFO ROUTINE WELLINGTON, CANBERRA, SUVA, WASHINGTON,
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MIPT: GREENPEACE.

SUMMARY.

1. A REVIVED VERSION OF THE BRITISH CONNECTION APPEARS IN TODAY'S FRANCE-SOIR. IT MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO PRE-EMPT THE LE MONDE STORY REPORTED IN MIPT, BUT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE BURIED BY IT.

DETAIL.

2. AN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S FRANCE-SOIR (POPULAR, RIGHT-WING) REFERS IN THE HEADLINE TO LONGSTANDING RIVALRY BETWEEN MI6 AND THE DGSE AND STATES THAT IN JULY 1984 TWO ENGLISH DIVERS DISAPPEARED AT BREST. THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT INFORMATION CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET FOR MORE THAN A YEAR DOUBTLESS EXPLAINS MANY THINGS IN THE GREENPEACE AFFAIR BY SHOWING THE EXTENT OF THE TENSION BETWEEN FRENCH AND BRITISH INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. IT STATES THAT "IN JULY 1984 TWO MILITARY FROGMEN, MI6 OFFICERS, DIED IN OUR TERRITORIAL WATERS WHILE THEY WERE DIVING SECRETLY IN THE IMMEDIATE PROXIMITY OF L'ILE LONGUE, THE ULTRA-SECRET SUBMARINE BASE NEAR BREST." AT A LATER POINT IN THE ARTICLE, AFTER HAVING EVOKED THE ALLEGED BRITISH IRRITATION WITH FRANCE OVER THE SALE OF EXOCETS TO ARGENTINA, THE VINCENNES IRISH AFFAIR, THE BOMB EPISODE DURING MITTERRAND'S STATE VISIT LAST YEAR AND THE ALLEGED BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPULSION OF THE FRENCH ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE IN NEW DELHI, THE ARTICLE STATES "IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT (SIC) THAT THE DEATH OCCURRED OF THE TWO MILITARY FROGMEN AT L'ILE LONGUE, WHILST SIX MONTHS EARLIER AN ENGLISH ENGINEER WAS FOUND MURDERED CLOSE TO THE PERIMETER OF THE BASE. OFFICIALLY HE HAD BEEN SPENDING TWO DAYS IN PARIS....".

3. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT WHILST FRENCH INTELLIGENCE SERVICES HAD INDEED SET UP A SURVEILLANCE OPERATION ON GREENPEACE, THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY QUESTION OF BLOWING UP THE RAINBOW WARRIOR IN AUCKLAND HARBOUR AND STATES THAT "SOMEONE" DID, CAUSING FRANCE TO LOSE ALL POSSIBILITY OF MANOEUVRE IN THE PACIFIC, TO COME CLOSE TO A WATERGATE AND EXPOSING SIX FRENCH INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS.

COMMENT.

4. THE REFERENCE NOTED ABOVE TO THE BRITISH ENGINEER FOUND MURDERED NEAR BREST AT THE END OF 1983 IS PRESUMABLY TO CAMPBELL WHOSE DEATH, LIKE THAT OF GRAHAM, ANOTHER BRITISH BUSINESSMAN WHO DIED IN MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE SAME TIME IN PARIS HAS NEVER BEEN SATISFACTORILY EXPLAINED (ALTHOUGH THE PAPER IS ENTIRELY WRONG TO SAY, AS IF IT WAS THE ACCEPTED VERSION, THAT HE HAD BEEN MURDERED). AS FOR THE STORY OF THE FROGMEN, THIS IS THE FIRST REFERENCE TO IT WE HAVE SEEN.

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5. WE ARE TAKING THE LINE ON THE RECORD THAT WE HAVE NO COMMENT ON THESE UNSUBSTANTIATED AND IMPROBABLE STORIES. UNATTRIBUTABLY, WE ARE SAYING THAT THIS LOOKS LIKE A FURTHER PIECE OF DISINFORMATION BY THE DGSE, DREDGED FROM THE REALMS OF FANTASY.

6. THIS STORY DOES INDEED LOOK SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE A LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO PRE-EMPT THE STORY IN LE MONDE REPORTED IN MIPT. IF SO, IT SEEMS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE BURIED BY IT, GIVEN LE MONDE'S FAR GREATER WEIGHT AND INFLUENCE, AND THE FACT THAT MOST FRENCH JOURNALISTS SEEM HIGHLY SCEPTICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROTESTATIONS OF INNOCENCE.

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