

GRS 100

UNCLASSIFIED

FM MOSCOW 120604Z MAY 83

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 497 OF 12 MAY 83

SOVIET COMMENT ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S BBC INTERVIEW OF 8 MAY.

1. AN OTHERWISE ROUTINE ARTICLE BY THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR MATVEYEV IN IZVESTIA OF 10 MAY DEALING WITH EAST/WEST TRADE RELATIONS CONTAINED A SHARP ATTACK ON THE PRIME MINISTER FOR STATEMENTS MADE IN HER BBC INTERVIEW ON 8 MAY.
2. NOTING THE PRIME MINISTER'S PAST RECOGNITION THAT "ANTI-COMMUNISM HAD BEEN IN HER BLOOD ALMOST SINCE CHILDHOOD" MATVEYEV COMMENTED THAT NOBODY EXPECTED FROM HER "A POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION". BUT IN THE PRESENT AGE IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ALL GOVERNMENTS, STATES AND LEADERS "NOT TO CONDUCT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF IDEOLOGICAL LINKING OR ANTI-PATHY BUT RATHER TO PUT THE PRESERVATION OF WORLD PEACE FIRST AND FOREMOST". HOWEVER, BLINDED BY HOSTILITY TO THE SOVIET UNION AND FROM EXTREME POSITIONS, SHE HAD MADE "UNRESTRAINED PRONOUNCEMENTS" ABOUT THE COUNTRY, ITS POLICIES AND ITS LEADERS. UNLIKE ITS PREDECESSORS WITH CONSERVATIVE VIEWS, THE PRESENT BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD NOT TAKEN A SINGLE STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST STATES AND IN THE BBC INTERVIEW SOVIET PEACE INITIATIVES HAD BEEN DISMISSED OUT OF HAND.

THIS TELEGRAM
WAS NOT
ADVANCED

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