

GRS 320

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FM BONN

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELNO 279

OF 021105Z APRIL 87

AND TO PRIORITY MOSCOW, PARIS, WASHINGTON, BMG BERLIN, EAST BERLIN

AND TO PRIORITY UKDEL NATO

INFO SAVING OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW: GERMAN PRESS COMMENT

SUMMARY

1. EXTENSIVE COVERAGE AND COMMENT OVER 3 DAYS. EMPHASIS AS MUCH ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AS ON DISARMAMENT; ALSO ON THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR GORBACHEV.

DETAIL

2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT HAS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL COMMENT FOR THE PAST 3 DAYS, AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIAL REPORTS ON RADIO AND TV. COMMENT HAS FOCUSED ON THE LINK MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER BETWEEN RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. HER APPROACH, ONE LEADING ARTICLE SAID TODAY, HAD BEEN AN EXAMPLE TO ALL WESTERN POLITICIANS. SHE DID NOT LEAVE OUT ANY ISSUES AND SHE DID NOT MINCE WORDS. ANY WHO THOUGHT THAT SUCH FRANKNESS WOULD ANNOY KREMLIN LEADERS HAD BEEN PROVED WRONG. THERE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN A GREATER CONTRAST WITH WHAT WEST GERMAN VISITORS TO MOSCOW USUALLY BRING BACK WITH THEM. AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR EUROPE, SAID ANOTHER ARTICLE, SHE HAD PRESENTED GOOD ARGUMENTS AND REPRESENTED NATO'S POSITION BRILLIANTLY.

3. ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, COMMENT FOCUSED ON THE FACT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT RESTRICT HER VISIT TO GOVERNMENT AND OFFICIAL CIRCLES IN THE KREMLIN. IT WAS REMARKABLE THAT SHE MET SACHAROV AND BEGUN.

4. THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR GORBACHEV, MARKED BY FRIENDLY MANNERS AND FRANK SPEECH, WAS NOTED AS HELPING TO ENSURE UNUSUALLY WIDE COVERAGE OF THE VISIT IN THE SOVIET MEDIA, INCLUDING THE PRINTING IN PRAVDA OF THE TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH ON 30 MARCH.

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GRS 170

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FM MADRID

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELNO 225

OF 020645Z APRIL 87

INFO ROUTINE PARIS, WASHINGTON, MOSCOW

INFO SAVING UKREP BRUSSELS, UKDAS GENEVA, UKDEL NATO

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MOSCOW: SPANISH PRESS COVERAGE *mt*

SUMMARY

1. COVERAGE OF THE VISIT IN SPANISH PRESS AND TV HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE. COVERAGE LARGELY FACTUAL, GIVING POSITIVE IMPRESSION OF VISIT. ONE EDITORIAL CRITICAL OF UK POLICY ON ZERO OPTION.

DETAIL

2. COVERAGE IN THE SPANISH PRESS AND TV DURING THIS WEEK HAS BEEN PROMINENT. THE IMPRESSION GIVEN IN MOST PRESS ARTICLES FROM MOSCOW HAS BEEN OF A UNIQUE VISIT MARKED BY FRANK EXCHANGES, THOUGH WITH DIFFERENCES REMAINING OVER ARMS CONTROL, HUMAN RIGHTS AND AFGHANISTAN.

3. ON 1 APRIL EL PAIS (INDEPENDENT, LARGEST SELLING NATIONAL DAILY) DEVOTED ALMOST TWO FULL PAGES TO THE VISIT, ONE GIVING AN OVERVIEW AND ONE ON THE SAKHAROV LUNCH. EL PAIS ALSO CARRIED AN EDITORIAL ON THE VISIT WHICH NOTED MRS THATCHER'S FIRMNESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMPREHENSION OF CURRENT CHANGES IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE BULK OF THE EDITORIAL WAS DEVOTED TO EUROPEAN AND US ATTITUDES TO THE ZERO OPTION AND CONTAINED CRITICISMS OF THE UK AND FRENCH ATTITUDES TO THE ZERO OPTION. IT CONCLUDED BY SUPPORTING THE DELORS PROPOSAL FOR A COMMUNITY POSITION.

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