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OF 020645Z APRIL 87

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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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