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FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
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MOSCOW SUMMIT: VERDICT OF THE US MEDIA
SUMMARY

1. THE MEDIA HAVE NOT YET GIVEN FINAL JUDGEMENT ON THE SUMMIT, BUT IT IS BEING WIDELY ACCLAIMED A SUCCESS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

DETAIL

2. THE US MEDIA HAVE PROVIDED HEAVY COVERAGE OF THE SUMMIT FROM MOST OF THE CONCEIVABLE ANGLES. THEY ARE ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO CONSIDER THEIR FINAL VERDICT ON THE SUBSTANCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCES OF 1 JUNE. BUT REPORTING SO FAR, BOTH ON TELEVISION AND IN EAST COAST NEWSPAPERS, HAS BEEN ALMOST UNIVERSAL IN ITS PRAISE OF THE PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE. HIS SPEECHES AND HIS WALKABOUT HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS EVOKING A WARM RESPONSE IN MOSCOW QUOTE REAGAN IMPRESSES SOVIET ELITE: THE VINTAGE ACTOR GETS GREAT REVIEWS UNQUOTE (NEW YORK TIMES). QUOTE PUBLIC IMPRESSED: PRESIDENT STANDS-UP WELL TO EVERYONE UNQUOTE (WASHINGTON POST).

3. THE CONTENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES, ESPECIALLY THE SPEECH AT MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY, HAVE ALSO BEEN WELL RECEIVED HERE. ABC TELEVISION CHARACTERISED THE UNIVERSITY SPEECH AS QUOTE VERY IMPRESSIVE UNQUOTE AND EDITORIALS IN THE 1 JUNE EDITIONS OF THE POLITICALLY DIVERSE WASHINGTON POST, WASHINGTON TIMES AND NEW YORK TIMES WERE SIMILARLY ENTHUSIASTIC. FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES THE SPEECH QUOTE ... MAY HAVE BEEN RONALD REAGAN'S FINEST ORATORICAL HOUR ... HE WAS STIRRING IN HIS TALK OF FREE ELECTIONS AND FREE ENTERPRISE, OF AN INDEPENDENT PRESS AND AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY. PEOPLE ARE LIKELY TO REMEMBER THE DAY RONALD REAGAN EXTOLLED FREEDOM, WHILE LENIN LOOKED ON. UNQUOTE. THE WASHINGTON TIMES WAS IN NO DOUBT THAT QUOTE MR REAGAN'S ADDRESS TOUCHED ALL THE RIGHT TOPICS, FROM HUMAN RIGHTS TO REGIONAL CONFLICT, WHILE PAINTING A FULL PICTURE OF AMERICA'S CONSTITUTIONAL GLORY UNQUOTE. AND THE WASHINGTON POST APPLAUDED THE WAY IN

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WHICH THE PRESIDENT WAS MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS QUOTE A LEADING
THEME OF THE MOSCOW SUMMIT AND HE IS DOING IT WITH THE RIGHT
TOUCH UNQUOTE.

4. ON THE DOWN SIDE, THERE IS SOME REPLAYING OF SOVIET
OFFICIAL (AND IN ONE CASE OF BRITISH PRESS) COMMENT CRITICAL OF THE
PRESIDENT'S HIGH PROFILE APPROACH TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.
HIS REMARKS ON AMERICAN INDIANS AT MOSCOW STATE
UNIVERSITY (QUOTE AWFUL UNQUOTE ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON
POST) HAVE RILED SOME OF HIS PANDITS HERE. AN OCCASIONAL
TENDENCY TO NOD OFF HAS BEEN NOTED. AND MORE CRITICAL
ANALYSIS OF ONE OR TWO ASSESSED MISSTATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE MAY NOW FOLLOW.

5. BUT THE FIRST REACTIONS ARE NEVERTHELESS OVERWHELMINGLY
FAVOURABLE, AND THE PRESIDENT AND HIS TEAM SHOULD ARRIVE IN LONDON
CORRESPONDINGLY BUOYED UP

6. FCO PLEASE PASS TO NUMBER 10 DOWNING STREET.

FALL

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