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GORBACHEV VISIT TO UK: SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF SECOND FULL DAY SUMMARY

1. FULL COVERAGE IN THE SOVIET MEDIA. THE HISTORICAL BACKDROP ACCENTUATED THE VISIT'S SIGNIFICANCE. GORBACHEV WAS SHOWN TO BE RECEIVED WITH DUE POMP BY THE QUEEN AND BRITAIN AS A WHOLE.

PRESS COVERAGE

2. THE SOVIET PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO GIVE EXTENSIVE FULL COVERAGE OF THE VISIT. PRAVDA LEADS WITH GORBACHEV'S GUILDHALL SPEECH, UNDER THE HEADING 'THE POTENTIAL FOR TRUST IS GROWING.' THE REPORT STRESSES THE FAVOURABLE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE 'SHORT BUT EXCEPTIONALLY RICH OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRITAIN' CONCLUDED. IT SAYS THAT THE PREVAILING JUDGEMENT WAS THAT 'THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN USSR AND BRITAIN HAS DEVELOPED A SUBSTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE NOT ONLY AT THE BILATERAL, BUT ALSO AT THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.' THE TASS ACCOUNT HAS ALL SECTORS OF BRITISH SOCIETY LOOKING FORWARD TO FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS. BOTH GORBACHEV'S SPEECH AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY ARE REPORTED IN FULL.

3. A FORMAL REPORT OF GORBACHEV'S LUNCH WITH THE QUEEN ON THE FRONT PAGE, WHICH RECORDS HIS INVITATION AND HER ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE, IS ACCOMPANIED BY A FULLER ACCOUNT OF THE CEREMONIES AND THERE IS A PICTURE OF GORBACHEV MEETING THE QUEEN ON PAGE 2. THERE ARE BRIEF REPORTS ON THE OTHER PAGES OF GORBACHEV'S MEETINGS WITH MR KINNOCK AND MR HATTERSLEY, AND WITH THE CPGB LEADERS: MRS GORBACHEV'S TOUR OF LONDON WITH MR BAKER AND OF YAKOVLEV'S PROGRAMME. GORBACHEV'S REMARKS AT HEATHROW ARE CARRIED IN FULL, WITH A SLIGHTLY SHORTENED VERSION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY.

4. COMMENT ON THE VISIT BY RUSSIAN SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS TAKES THE LINE THAT THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT HAS IMPROVED NOT ONLY BILATERAL RELATIONS 'BUT THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IN GENERAL.' INTERESTINGLY, PRAVDA GLOSSES OVER DIFFERENCES OVER NUCLEAR MODERNISATION ('WE HAVE LEARNT NOT TO DRAMATISE THIS DIVERSION'). ALL PAPERS EXPLOIT THE HISTORICAL SETTINGS OF THE VISIT TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF GORBACHEV'S REMARKS.

TELEVISION COVERAGE

5. THE VISIT HAS ALSO CONTINUED TO RECEIVE GENEROUS TELEVISION COVERAGE. GORBACHEV'S SPEECH AT THE GUILDHALL AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY WERE SCREENED LIVE AND REPEATED AT PRIME TIME. THE MAIN EVENING NEWS PROGRAMME LED WITH A 25 MINUTE REPORT. THIS CONCENTRATED ON THE OTHER EVENTS OF THE DAY AND THE PREVIOUS EVENING. THE GORBACHEVS' RECEPTION BY THE QUEEN, THE INSPECTION OF THE GUARD OF HONOUR (WITH THE RUSSIAN INVITATION) AND THE TOUR OF WINDSOR WAS THE CENTRE-PIECE. THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS OF THE DOWNING ST DINNER AND THE MEETING AT LANCASTER HOUSE. MRS GORBAHCEV'S PROGRAMME, INCLUDING THE VISIT TO THE MUSEUM OF LONDON WAS GIVEN GREATER COVERAGE THAN THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE REPORTS MADE MUCH OF MR GORBACHEV'S SUCCESS WITH THE CHEERING CROWDS. THE WARM FINAL REMARKS BY GORBACHEV AND THE PRIME MINISTER AT HEATHROW, WHICH INCLUDED GORBACHEV'S INVITATION TO THE QUEEN, WERE SHOWN IN FULL. AGAIN, THE COMMENTATORS DWELT ON THE HISTORIC SETTINGS AND THE PAGENTRY. THE RECEPTION AT WINDSOR WAS THAT 'ONLY ACCORDED TO THE MOST HONOURED GUESTS.'

COMMENT

6. A VISIT ABROAD BY GORBACHEV WOULD, IN ANY CASE, RECEIVE RESPECTFUL AND FAVOURABLE TREATMENT. BUT HIS RECEPTION BY THE QUEEN, HIS SERIOUS BUT FRIENDLY DISCUSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, AND HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN PLACES STEEPED IN HISTORY HAVE BEEN WOVEN TOGETHER TO SHOW HIM AS A WORLD STATESMAN OF THE FIRST RANK. THE WARMTH OF HIS RECEPTION, NOT JUST BY THE PRIME MINISTER BUT ALSO BY LONDONERS HAS GIVEN A ROSY GLOW TO SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS

MARSHALL

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