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MY TELNO 395: FALKLANDS: FRENCH OPINION

1. FRENCH PRESS REACTIONS AGAIN VARY. THE OVERALL BALANCE IS REASONABLE BUT THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS. THE TONE OF REPORTING IN THE COMMUNIST L'HUMANITE REMAINS CRITICAL. SUZANNE OF LE FIGARO CONTINUES TO MAKE SNIDE REMARKS, AND THE LEFT WING LIBERATION COMMENTS ON THE ALLEGED ECONOMIC MOTIVES BEHIND BRITAIN'S READINESS TO FIGHT OVER UNINHABITED PILES OF ROCK. TATU, ONE OF THE DIPLOMATIC EDITORS OF LE MONDE, ENDS AN ARTICLE WHICH HE COMMENTS IRONICALLY ABOUT BRITAIN'S ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT FRANCE HAS PERHAPS GONE TOO FAR IN SUPPORTING BRITAIN.

2. THE RIGHT WING QUOTIDIEN ON THE OTHER HAND SAYS THAT IT IS NOW BEING REALISED AFTER THE SOUTH GEORGIA OPERATION THAT IMPORTANT ISSUES ARE AT STAKE. THE FIRST IS SOVEREIGNTY. "CAN A COUNTRY WATCH THIS NOTION BEING FLOUTED WITHOUT REACTING? THE ARGENTINIANS HAVE LEARNT TO THEIR COST THAT IT CANNOT." THE PAPER CONCLUDES THAT THE AFFAIR HAS BEEN A REMINDER OF "A PRINCIPLE THE EXISTENCE OF WHICH HAD BEEN PRACTICALLY FORGOTTEN, BUT WHICH REMAINS KEENLY FELT IN THE DEPTHS OF HEARTS AND CONSCIENCES: A PRINCIPLE CALLED NATIONAL HONOUR."

FRETWELL

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