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INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL VERSAILLES, PRIORITY WASHINGTON

VERSAILLES SUMMIT: FRENCH PRESS COMMENT

1. THIS MORNING'S FRENCH PRESS CONCENTRATES HEAVILY ON THE SUMMIT. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SCENE-SETTING ARTICLES, INCLUDING THE INEVITABLE REFERENCES IN THE OPPOSITION PRESS TO MITTERRAND AND THE SUN KING.

1. THE PRE-SUMMIT BILATERAL BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT REAGAN AT THE US EMBASSY YESTERDAY IS GIVEN FULL COVERAGE. SEVERAL PAPERS, INCLUDING QUOTIDIEN (OPPOSITION) AND MATIN (LEFT-CENTRE) BASE THEIR ACCOUNTS ON ADVANCE BRIEFING ATTRIBUTED TO US OFFICIALS TO THE EFFECT THAT REAGAN INTENDED TO "PREACH MODERATION" TO MRS THATCHER, WARNING AGAINST INFLICTING A HUMILIATING DEFEAT ON ARGENTINA, AND URGING HER TO KEEP OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. LAST NIGHT'S FRENCH TV NEWS TOOK A SIMILAR LINE. ONLY FIGARO (RIGHT-WING) REPORTS THAT, CONTRARY TO EARLIER INDICATIONS, PRESIDENT REAGAN DID NOT SPEAK IN SUCH TERMS TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY INSTEAD TO REAFFIRM HIS SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN'S POLICY TOWARDS THE FALKLANDS DISPUTE. FIGARO GOES ON TO INTERPRET HAIG'S COMMENT AFTER THE MEETING THAT THE NEXT STEP DEPENDED ON THE ARGENTINIAN GOVERNMENT TO MEAN THAT BRITAIN HAD RECEIVED THE GREEN LIGHT TO UNDERTAKE THE FINAL OFFENSIVE ON PORT STANLEY. MOST PAPERS REPORT THAT AFTER HER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HER GRATITUDE FOR US SUPPORT.

3. NEWS OF LAST NIGHT'S VOTE AT THE UN ARRIVED TOO LATE TO BE COVERED IN THIS MORNING'S PAPERS.

FRETWELL

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