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PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW WITH JIMMY YOUNG 18 JUNE: GERMAN
UNIFICATION

SUMMARY

1. PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS ABOUT GERMAN UNIFICATION ON THE JIMMY YOUNG SHOW REPORTED WIDELY IN THE GERMAN MEDIA, AND NOTED BY MANY PEOPLE IN POLITICS.

DETAIL

2. DPA AND REUTER STORIES ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON THE JIMMY YOUNG SHOW ON 18 JUNE HAVE BEEN COVERED PROMINENTLY IN THE GERMAN PRESS. A NUMBER OF REPORTS OPENED WITH A REFERENCE TO THE UNEASINESS EXPRESSED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE PROSPECT OF A UNIFIED GERMANY BEING THE MOST POWERFUL EUROPEAN COUNTRY IN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SENSE, AND WENT ON TO QUOTE HER STATEMENT THAT THE HISTORY OF THIS CENTURY COULD NOT BE IGNORED. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ALSO QUOTED HER UNDERSTANDING FOR THE FEAR FELT AMONG OLDER PEOPLE IN THE UK, BUT ALSO MENTIONED (ALONG WITH OTHER PAPERS) HER COMMENT THAT WEST GERMANY WAS A VERY GOOD DEMOCRACY. ALL REPORTS ALSO QUOTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEW THAT THE RIGHT APPROACH WAS TO KEEP GERMANY FIRMLY IN NATO AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. SEVERAL PAPERS JUXTAPOSED THIS WITH THE COMMENT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT ANY FORM OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNION WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO A LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW WAS ALSO REPORTED AS THE 5TH ITEM ON THE MAIN NATIONAL NEWS PROGRAMME BY ARD (THE FIRST GERMAN TV CHANNEL) ON THE EVENING OF 18 JUNE. ARD REPORTED ONLY THE COMMENTS ON UNIFICATION.

4. A NUMBER OF GERMAN POLITICIANS AND PROMINENT JOURNALISTS HAVE MENTIONED THE INTERVIEW TO ME AND MY STAFF, REGRETTING THE EXPRESSION OF UNEASINESS ABOUT UNIFICATION AND THE PERCEIVED IMPLICATION THAT NATO MEMBERSHIP'S PURPOSE WOULD BE TO KEEP GERMANY RELIABLE.

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