

GRS 400

UNCLASSIFIED

FM PARIS

TO ROUTINE F C O

TELNO 1260 [NEUTRAL]

OF 241707Z NOVEMBER 86

INFO SAVING ATHENS, BONN, UKREP BRUSSELS, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN
INFO SAVING DUBLIN, LISBON, LUXEMBOURG, MADRID, ROME, THE HAGUE
INFO SAVING CG BORDEAUX, LILLE, LYONS, MARSEILLE

MIPT ANGLO-FRENCH SUMMIT: FRENCH MEDIA REACTIONS

1. SUMMARY

WIDESPREAD AND FAVOURABLE COVERAGE. CONSENSUS THAT PROBLEMS OVER
TERRORISM, LAMB AND FALKLANDS WERE ECLIPSED BY COMMON APPROACH ON
NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL ISSUES.

DETAIL

2. THE SUMMIT WAS FULLY REPORTED ON FRENCH TV NEWS AND IN THE FRENCH
PRESS, THOUGH MAINLY ON INSIDE PAGES. THE GENERAL EMPHASIS WAS ON A
NEW PERIOD OF HARMONY IN ANGLO-FRENCH RELATIONS, LARGELY
ATTRIBUTABLE TO AGREEMENT ON STRATEGIC ISSUES. MITTERRAND'S COMMENT
THAT IF THE AMERICANS WERE AGAIN TO GO AS FAR AS THEY HAD AT
REYKJAVIK, THERE WOULD NEED TO BE LONG AND DEEP CONSULTATION
BEFOREHAND, WAS WIDELY REPORTED. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SEEN AS
HAVING PLEADED NOT ONLY FOR BRITAIN BUT FOR EUROPE DURING HER TALKS
IN CAMP DAVID. ONE TV NEWS BULLETIN CONCLUDED THAT THE BRITISH HAD
DECIDED TO SET THE SYRIAN AFFAIR ON ONE SIDE IN ORDER TO WORK WITH
FRANCE ON THE VITAL DISARMAMENT ISSUES, AND THIS THEME WAS ECHOED
IN THE WRITTEN PRESS.

3. TELEVISION CARRIED SCENES OF BOTH MITTERRAND AND CHIRAC WITH THE
PM. FOR ONCE. NO COMMENTATOR WAS ABLE TO DETECT ANY SERIOUS
FIGHTING BETWEEN ELYSEE AND MATIGNON, ALTHOUGH THE ACROBACY OF
THE PROGRAMME WAS NOTED.

4. THE MEDIA NOTED CONTINUING DISAGREEMENTS OVER LAMB AND
FALKLANDS. MITTERRAND'S COMMENT THAT AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS WOULD
HAVE TO KEEP TALKING ABOUT LAMB WAS CONTRASTED WITH THE PM'S HOPE
THAT LAMB CONSIGNMENTS WOULD NO LONGER BE INTERFERED WITH.

5. ON TERRORISM, ONLY LE FIGARO RECORDED THE PM'S THANKS FOR FRENCH
HELP ON DEALING WITH IRISH TERRORISTS. BUT MOST NOTED BRITISH
SATISFACTION WITH THE LEVEL OF EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION, BALANCED BY
THE PM'S PLEA FOR COUNTRIES NOT TO UNDERCUT EACH OTHER.

16

6. COMMENT IN LE MONDE CONTRASTED THE WARMTH OF THIS SUMMIT WITH THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE LAST. DISAGREEMENTS OVER LAMB, SYRIA, ETC WERE OVER-SHADOWED BY THE NEED TO DRAW TOGETHER AFTER REYKJAVIK. LES ECHOS (BUSINESS DAILY) COMMENTED THAT THE SUMMIT HAD BEEN A GOOD THING FOR EUROPE IN SO FAR AS IT HAD DEMONSTRATED THAT IF EUROPEANS WANTED TO BE SURE OF THEIR FUTURE AND THEIR DEFENCE, THEY HAD TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEMSELVES.

FRETWELL

YYYY

F C O PLEASE PASS SAVINGS EXEMPT CG'S FRANCE

PCLNAN 6344

EUROPEAN POLITICAL

WED .

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)