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ACTION EUR-12

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-10	CIAE-00	NSCE-00
	NSAE-00	SSO-01	SY-06	PM-08	PA-01	CPR-02	INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4612  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13012

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: UK, INF, US, OVIP  
SUBJECT: THE VISITS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND SECDEF:  
- PROMOTING U.S. POLICIES FOLLOWING BRITISH  
- ELECTIONS

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THE VISITS HERE NEXT WEEK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PROVIDE THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY SINCE THE BRITISH ELECTIONS TO PROJECT ANEW U.S. VIEWS AND POLICIES. WE EXPECT CONSIDERABLE INTEREST FROM THE MEDIA, WHICH MAY LOOK FOR ANGLES BEYOND THE EDU/IDU CONFERENCE AND SECDEF'S PILGRIMS' SPEECH. HERE'S OUR SENSE OF THE ATMOSPHERICS ON SECURITY.
3. THE POLITICAL SCENE HERE IS MUCH CHANGED SINCE THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT IN FEBRUARY. THEN, THE "PEACE" MOVEMENT WAS AT ITS HEIGHT AND THOSE AROUND THE PM WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF INF DEPLOYMENT. MRS. THATCHER WAS ENTERING A CRUCIAL PHASE OF HER LEADERSHIP IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT NO TORY PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN ACCORDED SUCCESSIVE ELECTORAL MANDATES IN THIS CENTURY.

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4. NOW, MRS. THATCHER HAS HAD A PERSONAL TRIUMPH AND HER POLICIES -- INCLUDING CLOSE ATLANTIC TIES AND A STRONG DEFENSE -- HAVE BEEN VINDICATED. MOREOVER, SOME OF THE SECURITY ISSUES THE TORIES THOUGHT WOULD BE TROUBLESOME PLAYED LITTLE ROLE IN THE ELECTIONS:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
~~REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W FLEISHER~~  
DATE/CASE ID: 28 MAY 2003 200101860

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-- THE ANTI-AMERICAN ISSUE WHICH LABOR HAD BRUTED EARLIER  
 - IN THE YEAR WAS ABSENT FROM THE CAMPAIGN -- TO MRS.  
 - THATCHER'S SURPRISE.

-- INF DEPLOYMENTS WENT ALMOST UNMENTIONED WHILE THE  
 - CAMPAIGN FOCUSED ON THE INDEPENDENT DETERRENT.

-- DUAL KEY HAD A BRIEF FLURRY, BUT NEVER CAUGHT ON AS AN  
 - ISSUE.

WE NOTE AS WELL THAT THE ANTI-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT HAS LOST  
 STRENGTH (SEE SEPTEL FOR OUR CONVERSATION WITH CAMPAIGN  
 FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT LEADER BRUCE KENT).

5. WHILE THE ATMOSPHERE IS THEREFORE MORE POSITIVE FOR  
 US THAN IT WAS EARLIER IN THE YEAR, SOME ELEMENTS  
 OF THE MEDIA MAY TRY TO USE THE VISITS TO STIR UP  
 RENEWED CONTROVERSY ON INF DEPLOYMENT -- RE-FIGHTING  
 OLD BATTLES.

6. THIS COULD BE PARTICULARLY TRUE DURING THE SECDEF  
 VISIT. THE ANTIDOTE, IN OUR VIEW, IS TO ADOPT  
 A FORWARD-LOOKING APPROACH WHICH COMMUNICATES A SENSE  
 OF OUR CONFIDENCE THAT -- AFTER A TIME OF TESTING  
 -- WESTERN SECURITY POLICIES ARE ON TRACK. TONE WILL  
 BE AS IMPORTANT AS SUBSTANCE. INF DEPLOYMENTS WILL  
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CERTAINLY COME UP AND SHOULD BE DEALT WITH DIRECTLY.  
 BUT WE HOPE THE FOCUS CAN BE ELSEWHERE:

- -- ON POST-WILLIAMSBURG COOPERATION.
- -- ON THE ALLIED CONTRIBUTION TO DEFENSE  
 - AND ARMS CONTROL ISSUES.
- -- ON THE PRESIDENT'S START PROPOSAL AND  
 - THE TWIN THEMES OF DETERMINATION  
 - AND FLEXIBILITY. LOUIS

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