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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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TEXT
TAGS: PGOV, FR
SUBJECT: HOW TO DEAL WITH FN LEADER LE PEN -- GOF
- EMBARRASSINGLY DIVIDED

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY

2. RECENT DISPUTES IN THE GOF OVER HOW TO DEAL WITH THE POPULARITY AND ELECTORAL STRENGTH OF THE EXTREME RIGHT FRONT NATIONAL (FN) AND ITS LEADER JEAN-MARIE LE PEN HAVE BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE SERIOUS DIVISIONS IN THE MAINSTREAM RIGHT. PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC HAS APPEARED UNABLE TO KEEP HIS OWN MINISTERS IN LINE, LEADING SOME TO ASK ALOUD WHETHER HE IS REALLY GOVERNING OR JUST BARELY HOLDING THE FORT.

LE PEN'S RADICAL ALLEGATIONS ON AIDS SPARK A FLURRY OF INDIGNATION

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3. IN HIS HEURE DE VERITE TV PERFORMANCE EARLIER THIS MONTH, FN LEADER LE PEN CITED A NUMBER OF HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE "FACTS" (INCLUDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS KEEPING THE TRUTH FROM THE PUBLIC AND THAT IT KNOWS THAT AIDS IS HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS AND TRANSMITTED THROUGH SALIVA AND SWEAT) AND STATISTICS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF AIDS. HE ALSO REITERATED HIS VIEW THAT ANYONE DIAGNOSED AS HAVING AIDS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO A SPECIALIZED CENTER, A "SIDATORIUM." ASIDE FROM THEIR SCIENTIFIC INACCURACY, THESE POSITIONS -- COMING JUST AS LYON GESTAPO CHIEF **KLAUS BARBIE** WAS COMING TO TRIAL -- WERE REMINISCENT TO MANY OF THE NAZIS' DISCRIMINATION, FORCED INTERNMENT AND EVENTUAL EXTERMINATION OF SCAPEGOAT GROUPS. NOTHING DAUNTED, THE FN SPOKESMAN ON THE ISSUE, HIMSELF A PHYSICIAN, HEATEDLY RAISED AIDS IN PARLIAMENT LAST WEDNESDAY, AND MADE BOTH PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ATTACKS ON MME. BARZACH, THE GOF HEALTH MINISTER WHO IS ALSO A DOCTOR.

MINISTER MICHEL NOIR AND OTHERS STRONGLY CRITICISE THE FN'S THESES

4. ASIDE FROM MME. BARZACH'S HEATED REJOINDER IN PARLIAMENT, FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER MICHEL NOIR PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE IN LE MONDE LAST THURSDAY IN WHICH HE, LIKE PR HUMAN RIGHTS MINISTER CLAUDE MALHURET BEFORE HIM, VIGOROUSLY ATTACKED THE FRONT NATIONAL'S THESES. HE WENT SO FAR AS TO STATE THAT IN HIS OPINION IT WAS BETTER TO LOSE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION THAN TO ASSOCIATE WITH LE PEN. NOIR'S INITIATIVE HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM THE SOCIALISTS AND BY SEVERAL OF HIS MAJORITY COLLEAGUES, NOTABLY BUDGET MINISTER ALAIN JUPPE, ENVIRONMENT MINISTER ALAIN CARIGNON, BOTH OF CHIRAC'S RPR PARTY AS IS NOIR, AND JEAN ARTHUIS.

CHIRAC MUZZLES NOIR, AND THE REST OF THE GOF

5. ALL OF THIS HAPPENED WHILE CHIRAC WAS IN MOSCOW. ON HIS RETURN, HE CALLED NOIR IN AND SEVERELY REPRIMANDED HIM FOR HIS ARTICLE AND SUBSEQUENT RADIO DECLARATIONS TO THE SAME EFFECT. REPORTS ARE HE THREATENED TO TAKE AWAY NOIR'S MINISTRY IF HE COULD NOT HOLD HIS TONGUE.

STRATEGY RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE AT ISSUE

6. CHIRAC PERSONALLY IS HOSTILE TO LE PEN AND WHAT HE STANDS FOR AND HAS CONSISTENTLY REFUSED TO MEET WITH THE FN LEADER. THE ISSUE HERE, THEREFORE, IS NOT REALLY SUBSTANCE BUT A DISAGREEMENT ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE THE FN POLITICAL THREAT. CHIRAC, SIDING FOR NOW WITH INTERIOR MINISTER PASQUA'S RECOMMENDATIONS, SEEMS CURRENTLY WEDDED TO A STRATEGY OF KEEPING QUIET ON LE PEN'S OUTRAGEOUS REMARKS IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP HIM OUT OF THE MEDIA LIMELIGHT. IN ESSENCE, CHIRAC IS BANKING ON

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SPIRITING LE PEN'S VOTERS AWAY FROM HIM BY NOT ATTACKING HIM HEAD ON WHILE ENUNCIATING HIS OWN SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH CONCERN LE PEN'S VOTERS. NOIR AND OTHERS -- PARTICULARLY IN THE YOUNGER GENERATION -- FEEL STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT AN OVERRIDING MATTER OF PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED. THEY HAVE NOT SHIED AWAY FROM STATING IN PRINT THAT IN THEIR VIEW THERE IS A 1930'S

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 25483

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SUBJECT: HOW TO DEAL WITH FN LEADER LE PEN -- GOF PRE-VICHY FEELING IN THE AIR. THE RPR'S MILITANTS ARE SIMILARLY DIVIDED WITH TWO-THIRDS OPPOSING COOPERATION WITH THE FN, BUT ONE-THIRD PREPARED TO ACCEPT IT.

DISUNITY DAMAGES THE RIGHT AND CHIRAC'S GOVERNING IMAGE SUFFERS

7. THE UPSHOT HAS BEEN TURMOIL IN THE GOF, WITH CHIRAC CALLING FOR AN END TO THIS PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE FN, AND COMMENTING THAT HE, THE PRIME MINISTER IS WORKING AND HAS NO TIME FOR POLEMICS. FOR HIS PART, INTERIOR MINISTER PASQUA REMARKED ACIDLY THAT MINISTERS SHOULD CONCENTRATE EXCLUSIVELY ON THEIR MINISTRIES. THOUGH THIS WILL LIKELY BLOW OVER AND CALM WILL BE RESTORED, THE ENTIRE EPISODE POINTS UP:

-- SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN THE MAINSTREAM RIGHT ON KEY QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANCE AND STRATEGY FOR THE COMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

-- CHIRAC'S DIFFICULTIES IN MAINTAINING CONTROL OVER HIS MINISTERS. HE SEEMS TO LURCH FROM ONE FLAP TO THE NEXT.

-- CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCES IN VIEW, CUTTING ACROSS RPR AND UDF LINES, AMONG THE GENERATIONS. WHILE THE OLDER MINISTERS AND POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE REMAINED SILENT OR CRITICIZED NOIR'S OUTBURST AS IMPOLITIC AND A BREACH OF MINISTERIAL RESERVE, THE YOUNGER GENERATION (MALHURET, ARTHUIS, JUPPE, BARZACH) HAS BEEN VOCAL NOT ONLY IN ITS WARNINGS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF LE PEN'S THESES BUT SUPPORTIVE OF NOIR'S STANCE.

-- THE SOCIALISTS -- WHO HAILED NOIR'S ACTIONS AS "COURAGEOUS" -- ARE QUICK TO EXPLOIT ANY BREACH IN THE MAJORITY'S FACADE, THEREBY ADDING TO THE RIGHT'S PROBLEMS.

CONCLUSION

8. FOR THE TIME BEING, CHIRAC WILL DOUBTLESS SUCCEED IN TIGHTENING SHIP WITHIN THE GOF. THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THE FN, HOWEVER, WILL NOT GO AWAY. CHIRAC IS

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EMERGING BATTERED FROM THIS EPISODE WHICH ONCE AGAIN CALLED INTO QUESTION THE STRENGTH OF HIS LEADERSHIP ABILITY -- EVEN WITHIN HIS OWN CABINET. THE PRIME MINISTER PLANS TO CENTER HIS PRESIDENTIAL BID ON THE CLAIM TO HAVE SHOULDERED THE BURDEN OF GOVERNMENT IN DIFFICULT TIMES. EPISODES SUCH AS THIS ONE, HOWEVER, MAKE SOME WONDER WHETHER HOLDING THE MAJORITY TOGETHER LEAVES HIM MUCH TIME TO DEVOTE HIMSELF TO AFFAIRS OF STATE. BARRACLOUGH##

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END OF MESSAGE

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