

UNCLASSIFIED

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OF 131900Z JULY 90

INFO ROUTINE EC POSTS, WASHINGTON, OTTAWA, TOKYO

*X now seems  
to be the common  
theme in Europe**mb*THE HOUSTON ECONOMIC SUMMIT: ITALIAN PRESS REACTION

## SUMMARY

1. FULL BUT LOW KEY AND FACTUAL ITALIAN PRESS COMMENT ON THE HOUSTON SUMMIT.

## DETAIL

2. THE HOUSTON IS COVERED EXTENSIVELY IN ALL THE MAJOR ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS. MOST CARRY SEVERAL ARTICLES FOCUSING ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE MEETING. BUT COVERAGE IS GENERALLY LOW KEY AND FACTUAL. THE SUMMIT IS SEEN AS HAVING AVOIDED MAJOR DISAGREEMENTS, BUT AT THE EXPENSE OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON SOME ISSUES. IN PARTICULAR, THE OUTCOMES ON ENVIRONMENT, ON AGRICULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND ON THIRD WORLD DEBT ARE DESCRIBED AS ONLY MINOR ADVANCES.

3. MOST ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS NOTE WITH APPROVAL THE REFERENCE IN THE SUMMIT'S CONCLUSIONS TO THE CRAXI REPORT ON THIRD WORLD DEBT. BUT SOME ALSO EMPHASISE THE LOW ITALIAN PROFILE AT THE SUMMIT: DELORS IS QUOTED AS DESCRIBING ITALY AS HAVING MADE LITTLE IMPACT, AND A TEXAS NEWSPAPER AS CALLING THE ITALIAN TEAM THE 'INVISIBLE DELEGATION'.

4. THERE IS LITTLE COMMENT ON THE UK'S ROLE ALTHOUGH SOME ARTICLES NOTE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMPROMISE ON AGRICULTURE.

5. EDITORIALS FOCUS ON TWO THEMES. ON THE FIRST, THE PROS AND CONS OF AID FOR THE SOVIET UNION, THEY CONCLUDE THAT THE KOHL-MITTERRAND-ANDREOTTI LINE WAS THE RIGHT ONE, ALTHOUGH IT FAILED TO CARRY THE DAY. THE SECOND MAIN THEME IS THAT THE SUMMIT CONFIRMED THE DECLINE OF US LEADERSHIP AND THE EMERGENCE OF AN INDEPENDENT, POWERFUL, AND DYNAMIC EUROPEAN VOICE WITH INDEPENDENT PRIORITIES AND POLICIES, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE EVENTUAL US CLIMB-DOWN OVER AGRICULTURE.

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ECONOMIC SUMMIT

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