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PAGE 1 OF 5 PAGES

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COUNTRY FRANCE

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SUBJECT ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE SCHISM IN THE

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GAULLIST MAJORITY

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SOURCE

1. THE DIVISION OF THE GAULLIST MAJORITY INTO TWO RIVAL GROUPS MAY BE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. THE REFUSAL OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE MAJORITY GROUP HAS HAD A PARALYZING EFFECT ON GAULLISTS IN GENERAL AND ON THE GAULLIST PARLIAMENTARY BLOC OF THE UNION DEMOCRATIQUE DE LA CINQUIEME REPUBLIQUE (UD/VR - DEMOCRATIC UNION FOR THE FIFTH REPUBLIC) AS WELL AS ON THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ITSELF. THE

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CONSTANTLY CRITICAL ATTITUDE OF VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING, LEADER OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS, TOWARD THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND TOWARD HIS GOVERNMENT HAS CREATED A VERY REAL FEAR AMONG LOYAL GAULLISTS WHO FEEL THEIR ELECTORAL POSITIONS ERODED BY THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS. THE MINISTERS THEMSELVES, AND PARTICULARLY FINANCE MINISTER, MICHEL DEBRE, FEAR THE CRITICISMS OF GISCARD D'ESTAING AND HAVE A TENDENCY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE PRESENTING A PROJECT WHAT THE FORMER FINANCE MINISTER WOULD SAY ABOUT IT. WITH PRESENT FINANCE MINISTER DEBRE, THIS IMAGINARY CRITIQUE HAS BECOME ALMOST A MANIA. WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF, PERSONAL QUARRELS HAVE BECOME AN IMPORTANT FACTOR, AND IT IS A FACT THAT RELATIONS ARE STRAINED BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER, DEBRE, MINISTER FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS JEAN-MARCEL JEANNENEY AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT, JACQUES CHIRAC.

2. WHAT IS LACKING TODAY IN THE MAJORITY IS ENTHUSIASM. THE CREATION OF THE UD/VR AND THE NOMINATION OF FIVE GENERAL SECRETARIES APPROVED BY THE PRIME MINISTER DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE GIVEN ANY REAL IMPETUS TO THE GAULLIST MOVEMENT. [REDACTED] COMMENT: 1.3(a)(4)(5)  
ACCORDING TO [REDACTED], THE SECRETARIES  
ARE: ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT, CHABAN DELMAS; FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER,  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

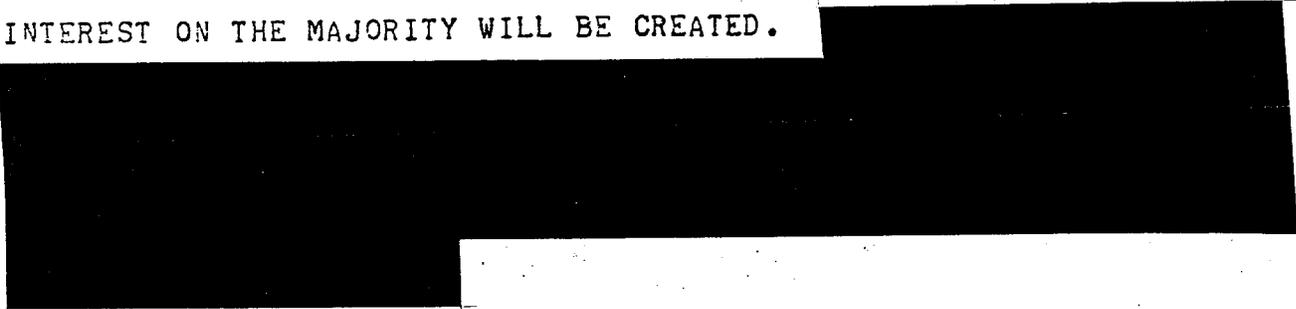
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ROGER FREY; MICHEL DEBRE; ELYSEE AFRICAN AFFAIRS OFFICER, JACQUES FOCCART; AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, OLIVIER GUICHARD.) THIS HAS DISILLUSIONED THE GAULLIST MILITANTS AND EVEN THE GUALLIST LEADERSHIP IS WELL AWARE OF THE NARROW LIMITS OF ITS AUTHORITY AND OF ITS CAPABILITIES. UP TO THE PRESENT TIME, FEW PROJECTS FOR STRENGTHENING THE COHESION AND MORALE OF THE MAJORITY HAVE BEEN INITIATED AND THESE HAVE BEEN LIMITED IN SCOPE. FOR INSTANCE, THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION, LA NATION, WILL APPEAR AFTER THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER IN A LARGER FORMAT AND A BULLETIN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF ITEMS OF INTEREST ON THE MAJORITY WILL BE CREATED.

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3. IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES PREVALENT IN THE GOVERNMENT AT THE PRESENT TIME, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR, THE PROBLEMS ARE NOT SERIOUS ENOUGH TO PROVOKE A MINISTERIAL CRISIS, ALTHOUGH GISCARD D'ESTAING PROBABLY COULD, IF HE SO DECIDED, BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, BEFORE ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY



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FOR A GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS, GISCARD REALIZES THAT HE MUST UNDERTAKE SEVERAL TIME-CONSUMING POLITICAL TASKS. HE MUST RESIST ANY INCREASE IN THE STRENGTH OF THE CENTRE DEMOCRATE SINCE THE CENTRE AND HE COMPETE FOR THE SAME VOTERS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE MUST SEEK TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF A LARGE PART OF THE MODERATE RIGHT-WING VOTE WHICH NORMALLY VOTES GAULLIST AND ALSO BEGIN TO ESTABLISH A Foothold AMONG THE GAULLISTS THEMSELVES, SINCE IN THE EVENT OF PREMATURE LEGISLATIVE OR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, HE WOULD BE DEPENDENT, AS IN THE LAST LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, ON GAULLIST SUPPORT. MOREOVER, THE TIME TO PRECIPITATE A GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS IS NOT AT HAND FOR TWO IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL REASONS: FIRST, BECAUSE UNPOPULAR MEASURES, ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, AND DISLIKE OF DE GAULLE'S FOREIGN POLICY CREATE A GREAT RISK FOR ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT. IF THE ELECTIONS WERE TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE TOO LONG, THEY WOULD BRING ABOUT THE DEFEAT OF THE GAULLIST MAJORITY AND THE SEATS LOST BY THE MAJORITY WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE RECUPERATED BY THE GISCARDIANS. GISCARD D'ESTAING WILL BE OBLIGED TO WAIT UNTIL THE MAJORITY REGAINS A POSITION OF AUTHORITY FOR WHICH GISCARD D'ESTAING CAN CLAIM CREDIT IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC, OR UNTIL HE APPEARS IN THE EYES OF THE

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PUBLIC AS AN ALTERNATIVE. SECONDLY, THE MEMBERS OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN GROUP, WHICH CONTINUE TO VOTE FOR THE MAJORITY, ARE DOUBTLESS DISPLEASED, DISAPPOINTED, AND WORRIED, BUT THEY DO NOT DARE PROTEST FOR FEAR OF PROVOKING A CRISIS AND NEW ELECTIONS. THEY WOULD NOT FORGIVE GISCARD D'ESTAING FOR A BREAK WITH THE MAJORITY AT ANY TIME IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, MANY OF THEM APPEAR TO SUPPORT HIS EQUIVOCAL POSITION WHICH CONSISTS IN SUPPORTING A GOVERNMENT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CRITICISING IT STRONGLY. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS GISCARD D'ESTAING WILL NOT RISK A MINISTERIAL CRISIS BEFORE THE VOTE ON THE BUDGET IN THE FALL.

4. ACTUALLY WHAT SEPARATES GISCARD D'ESTAING FROM THE GAULLISTS ARE TWO FACTORS; FIRST, HE DISAGREES WITH DE GAULLE ON THE ROLE OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND SECONDLY, AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, ALTHOUGH GISCARD D'ESTAING SUPPORTS DE GAULLE'S POLICY OF INDEPENDENCE FOR FRANCE, HE IS CERTAINLY OPPOSED TO THE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY OF DE GAULLE WHICH IS OPPOSITION TO THE DOMINATING POWER IN THE WORLD: THE UNITED STATES. THUS, GISCARD D'ESTAING PROBABLY WOULD COMPLETELY ABANDON THE MAJORITY IF DE GAULLE WERE TO SEVER HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IN 1969.

5. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE  
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