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Jobert - Bio

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JOBERT

PARIS, OCT. 16, REUTER -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER IS CAPABLE OF ANGER AND SPIKE IN DEALING WITH MEN AND ISSUES, BUT IS BASICALLY A GOOD-HEARTED SOUL, FORMER FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER MICHEL JOBERT SAID IN A BOOK PUBLISHED TODAY.

MR. JOBERT DEVOTED A LARGE PART OF HIS BOOK, "MEMOIRES D'AVENIR" (MEMOIRS OF THE FUTURE), TO FRANCO-U.S. RELATIONS, WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN DOMINATED BY "DR. KISSINGER'S POWERFUL PERSONALITY."

HE DESCRIBED THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS CUNNING AND A DREAMER, BUT A GOOD-HEARTED MAN.

MR. JOBERT, ONCE DESCRIBED AS EUROPE'S ANSWER TO DR. KISSINGER, SAID THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD SOMETIMES BURST INTO FITS OF ANGER WHICH HE REGRETTED AFTERWARD.

THE FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER RECALLED A NATO MEETING LAST DECEMBER AT WHICH HE HAD PUT QUESTIONS TO DR. KISSINGER ON A U.S.-SOVIET AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND SOVIET LEADER LEONID BREZHNEV.

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"IRRITATION AND SPIKE -- PARTLY CALCULATED -- GRIPPED THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE," HE WROTE. "I DID NOT APPRECIATE HIS OUTBURSTS."

"THE GOING WAS ROUGH AND I THOUGHT OF CANCELING A BREAKFAST APPOINTMENT WITH HIM SCHEDULED FOR THE FOLLOWING MORNING. BUT AFTER RECEIVING ASSURANCES THAT THE MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL, I ATTENDED IT. THE TONE HAD CHANGED."

MR. JOBERT ADDED, "HENRY KISSINGER HAS A STRONG PERSONALITY. SOME PEOPLE FIND HIM SOMEWHAT OVERWHELMING -- I AM SURE HE WILL NOT SEE IN THIS REMARK ANYTHING DEROGATORY. THAT IS NORMAL, BECAUSE HE DEALS WITH MANY PROBLEMS AT A TIME. HE TRIES TO BE PRESENT HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE."

"PEOPLE HAVE SAID THAT HE LIKED BEING A STAR AND THAT HE WAS A PRIMA DONNA ON FOREIGN POLICY. BUT I BELIEVE THAT HE IS ALL FOR POLITICS. HE IS A POLITICIAN. HE KNOWS WHEN TO LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE AND WHEN TO STOP IF WHEN HIS POSITIONS ARE ENDANGERED."

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THE FORMER MINISTER WENT ON, "WHAT I LIKE ABOUT KISSINGER ... IS THAT SOMETIMES HE TAKES A STEP BACK FROM HIMSELF -- WHICH IS VERY LAUDABLE -- AND HE TRIES TO THINK LIKE ANYONE ELSE, EVEN IMAGINING WHAT HIS LIFE WILL BE LIKE WHEN HE QUITS POWER.

"THIS IS EXTREMELY CHARMING AND PROBABLY GIVES HIM IN HIS LIFE TODAY AN ADDITIONAL DEGREE OF BALANCE AND ALSO A CERTAIN SENSE OF HUMOR.

"BUT IN PERSONALITIES LIKE HIS, EVERYTHING IS MIXED -- SIMPLICITY, A LOVE OF BEING ON THE SPOT, A WILL TO ACHIEVE, A DESIRE NOT TO BE CAUGHT IN A TRAP."

MR. JOBET SAID THAT DR. KISSINGER WAS A MAN OF GREAT DEPTH WHO EXERCISED HIS JUDGMENT BOTH ON MEN AND THINGS WITHOUT JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS.

"ALL THIS MAKES HENRY KISSINGER A MAN WHO LIVES AN INTENSE LIFE EVERY MOMENT OF HIS EXISTENCE," HE ADDED. "MOBILE, PASSIONATE, CURIOUS, HIGHLY ORGANIZED, SOMEWHAT DETACHED, A DREAMER -- BUT A GOOD-HEARTED SOUL."

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JOBERT-KISSINGER

PARIS (AP) -- HENRY KISSINGER "HAS A DESPERATE NEED TO BE ADMIRER" AND THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE SOMETIMES GETS TRIPPED UP BY HIS "REVERENCE FOR HIS OWN INTELLIGENCE," SAYS A FORMER FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER.

"HE THINKS THAT HE CAN SUBMIT HISTORY TO HIS REASONINGS, TO HIS CONSTRUCTIONS," WROTE MICHEL JOBERT OF THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC SUPERSTAR IN "MEMOIRS OF THE FUTURE."

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS FIDELITY TO HIMSELF, THIS CONSTANT REVERENCE FOR HIS OWN INTELLIGENCE LEADS HIM TO SOME MISTAKES," JOBERT WROTE.

HE ADDED: "THERE IS SOMETHING OF AN ILLUSIONIST IN HIM. HE FEEDS HIMSELF WITH HIS ILLUSIONS, AND HE HAS MANY ILLUSIONS. . . . HE HAS A DESPERATE NEED TO BE ADMIRER. YOU CAN SEE IT IN HIS FACE."

JOBERT BECAME FOREIGN MINISTER IN APRIL 1973 -- WHEN KISSINGER ISSUED HIS CALL FOR "A NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER" THAT LATER WAS SIDETRACKED BY MIDDLE EAST WARFARE AND THE ENERGY CRISIS. JOBERT INTERPRETED THE IDEA FOR A REFURBISHED TRANS-ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP AS AN ATTEMPT BY KISSINGER TO DOMINATE EUROPE.

JOBERT WROTE THAT DURING HIS YEAR AS FOREIGN MINISTER, HE FOUND THAT KISSINGER ALWAYS OPENED CONVERSATIONS BY RECITING A LIST OF COMPLAINTS.

HE SAID KISSINGER "SPOKE A LOT, EASILY TAKING A SILENCE FOR AN ACQUIESCENCE OR PROFESSING SADNESS THAT AN OBJECTION COULD IMPERIL A GRAND HISTORIC DESIGN."

KISSINGER "STAGED TERRIBLE SCENES, DESCRIBING THE APOCALYPSE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE. . . ." JOBERT WROTE. "HE MADE HIMSELF UNDERSTOOD AND THE OTHERS HAD ALREADY RESIGNED THEMSELVES TO OBEYING."

BUT JOBERT SAID HE FOUND THAT HIS RESPECT FOR KISSINGER INCREASED AS THE CHILL BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES SETTLED IN. HE DESCRIBED KISSINGER AS "A MAN WHO WAS DOING HIS DUTY TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITY."

JOBERT RETIRED UPON THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT GEORGES POMPIDOU LAST APRIL. SINCE THEN, FRENCH-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAVE BECOME WARMER.

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