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PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO JAPAN

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION AT PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT JAPAN PRESS CLUB ON 21 SEPTEMBER:

QUESTION: PRIME MINISTER, I WOULD LIKE TO RAISE THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS. THE FIRST QUESTION CONCERNS THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION. IN YOUR PRESENTATION YOU REFERRED TO SOVIET THREAT. ON ONE HAND, THE UNITED STATES ARE TRYING TO ENFORCE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION. THAT HAS A RELEVANCE TO THE WESTERN COUNTRIES EFFORTS TO EXPORT PLANT AND EQUIPMENT TO THE SOVIET UNION. WE ARE CAUGHT IN THE TWO CONFLICTING CONSIDERATIONS BETWEEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND MILITARY THREAT. IN WHAT WAY DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD ESTABLISH THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION ?

PM. LET'S DEAL WITH QUESTION OF THE SANCTIONS ON THE SIBERIAN PIPELINE BECAUSE THAT'S ALL THE SANCTIONS WE HAVE THAT WE DISAGREE ABOUT AT THE MOMENT. WE AGREE THAT WE DO NOT SELL HIGHLY SENSITIVE DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY TO THE SOVIET UNION NOR TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD BE USED FOR DEFENCE PURPOSES. NO DIFFICULTY ABOUT THAT. WE HAVE A MUTUAL ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING SEVERAL COUNTRIES THAT WE ARE AGREED ABOUT. WE ALSO - MOST COUNTRIES INCLUDING EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES, CONDUCT A GOOD DEAL OF TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. FOR THE UNITED STATES, IT IS MOSTLY TRADE IN WHEAT MUCH LESS ON MANUFACTURING. THAT TRADE IN WHEAT CONTINUES. EUROPE STILL CONTINUES TO SELL FOOD TO THE SOVIET UNION, SOME OF IT HIGHLY SUBSIDISED AND I MUST TELL YOU THAT I DO NOT LIKE SUBSIDISING THOSE FOOD EXPORTS. WE ALSO HAVE TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION THAT IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO US BOTH. WHAT I AM POINTING OUT IS THAT THE AREA OF AGREEMENT IS MUCH GREATER THAN THE AREA OF DISAGREEMENT. NOW THE UNITED STATES FELT EXTREMELY STRONGLY ABOUT THE ATTITUDES OF THE SOVIET UNION, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS POLAND. WE AGREE THAT WE DISLIKE A COMMUNIST SYSTEM ON THE BASIS THAT IT DENIES FREEDOM AND DIGNITY TO PEOPLE. WE ARE AGREED ABOUT THAT. WE WERE HAVING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE FELT PARTICULARLY STRONGLY, AS WE ALL DO, WHEN THE FIRST SIGN OF FREEDOM CHANGED IN POLAND. THE COMMUNIST SYSTEM CAN'T STAND FREEDOM AND THEY TRIED TO STOP IT. WELL, WE CHOSE TO DO IT BY STOPPING EXISTING COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS TO DEVELOP THE SIBERIAN GAS PIPELINE. HAD THE UNITED STATES SAID AT THE BEGINNING THAT THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO STOP ANY CONTRACTS MADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON THEIR PIPELINE, I DON'T THINK ANY OF US WOULD HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE

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MOST OF US HAVE LICENCING AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR VERY IMPORTANT PRODUCTS. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN REASONABLE AND UNDERSTANDABLE TO HAVE SAID THAT BEFORE IT STARTED. IT WAS NOT REASONABLE SUDDENLY TO STOP A COMMERCIAL CONTRACT WHEN IT HAS HONOURABLY AND FREELY BEEN MADE AND ENTERED INTO. THE ONLY TIME WHEN YOU DO STOP A COMMERCIAL CONTRACT IS IF YOU GET THE OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES THEN OBVIOUSLY THERE'S A REASON FOR DOING IT. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY SUCH GREAT EVENT, IT IS NOT REASONABLE SUDDENLY TO CUT UP COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS - IT RENDERS COMPANIES LIABLE TO ENORMOUS DAMAGES IN THE LAW COURTS, IT MAKES THEM LAY OFF PEOPLE WHO BECOME UNEMPLOYED WHO OTHERWISE HAD JOBS AND THEREFORE MOST OF US WHO HAVE HAD AN ORDER FROM THE UNITED STATES TO STOP THAT WORK HAVE SAID NO. WE MADE THAT CONTRACT AND WE'LL CARRY OUT. I THINK HAD WE AGREED WITH THE UNITED STATES AT VERSAILLES ON THE REDUCTION OF CREDITS TO THE SOVIET BLOC, WAY BELOW THE CREDITS THEY GET NOW, (I'M TALKING ABOUT CREDITS FOR EXPORT TO THE SOVIET BLOC) THEN THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT HAVE ACTED IN THIS WAY. THEY DID NOT IN FACT GET THE AGREEMENT THEY SOUGHT AND THEREFORE THIS ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN MADE AGAINST US. I ONLY SAY THIS TO YOU, THIS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US - THERE'S ONE OTHER ONE ON STEEL: THEY'RE ALREADY ATTEMPTING TO PROTECT THEIR OWN STEEL INDUSTRY - BUT THESE TWO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US ARE SMALL COMPARED WITH THE ENORMOUS AND OVERRIDING THINGS WHICH UNITE US, WHICH IS AN ALLIANCE AND DEFENCE OF A WAY OF LIFE IN WHICH WE BELIEVE. I'M SORRY THAT ANSWER'S LONG BUT IT'S NECESSARY TO GET IT LONG TO BE CLEAR: IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN LONGER IN JAPANESE.

QUESTION: THE SECOND QUESTION RAISED CONCERNS CHINA. CHINA IS A COUNTRY WHICH OBSERVES GREAT MOVEMENTS NOT ONLY OF ASIA BUT ALSO ON THE WORLDWIDE SITUATION. WE UNDERSTAND, PRIME MINISTER, THAT YOU WILL BE PRESENT IN CHINA AFTER THIS, SO IN THIS CONNECTION WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK WHAT SORT OF FUTURE RELATIONSHIP ARE YOU INTENDING TO ESTABLISH WITH CHINA ?

PM: WELL, CHINA IS ALREADY AND WILL BE AN INCREASINGLY POWERFUL COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. IT'S THE LARGEST ONE, IT'S GOT A BILLION PEOPLE. OBVIOUSLY, EVERY IMPORTANT POLITICAL MATTER WE SHOULD CONSULT WITH CHINA BECAUSE AFTER TREMENDOUS STRENGTH AND POWER SHE ALSO HAS SPECIAL INFLUENCE OVER THE WHOLE SOUTH EAST ASIAN PROBLEM AND ESPECIALLY OF COURSE IN THE VIETNAM/CAMBODIA OUTLOOK. ONE ALSO WISHES TO KNOW, OBVIOUSLY, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION, BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES, AND I OF COURSE WILL HAVE A SPECIAL MATTER TO DISCUSS WITH THE CHINESE LEADERS WHICH IS HONG KONG. I THINK THAT WILL KEEP US GOING FOR QUITE A TIME ON THOSE THINGS.

QUESTION: FIRST OF ALL I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING DAY AND NIGHT TO REVITALISE THE UK ECONOMY - YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING MUCH HARDER THAN, SHALL I SAY, THE JAPANESE. NOW, THE PRIME PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT TO JAPAN THIS TIME IS TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

AND THOSE IN JAPAN IN ORDER TO REALISE THE REVITALISATION AND RECOVERY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. IN THIS CONNECTION, I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE MET WITH OUR PRIME MINISTER AND ALSO THE MINISTER IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY, MR ABE, AND ALSO OTHER LEADERS IN ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS CIRCLES IN JAPAN. AS A RESULT OF YOUR MEETINGS WITH THESE PEOPLE, WHAT SORT OF OUTLOOK OR PERSPECTIVE DO YOU HAVE AS REGARDS UK/JAPAN INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION. DO YOU STILL BELIEVE IN SUCH COLLABORATION ? IN THIS CONNECTION, WHAT SORT OF OBSTACLES REMAIN ?

PH: THANK YOU FOR YOUR CHARMING COMPLIMENT: NEVERTHELESS MY ANSWER WILL BE BRIEF. WITH REGARD TO INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS, THERE'S SCOPE FOR A GREAT DEAL MORE. THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY IN BRITAIN AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY HERE ARE BOTH WORKING ON IT IN CONJUNCTION WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY. WE SUGGESTED SOME EIGHTEEN POSSIBLE COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS LAST MAY AND THE JAPANESE INDUSTRY HAS ALREADY PUT UP THREE. WE ARE BOTH LOOKING AT THEM. JAPAN HAS ALREADY APPROVED SOME OF THE EIGHTEEN, (QUITE A NUMBER OF THEM) AND THEY ARE LOOKING AT THE REST. WE HAVE REPLIED ON THE THREE AND ARE WAITING FOR A REPLY BACK. THE POINT I AM MAKING IS THAT THERE IS A GOOD DEAL ACTIVITY WITH REGARD TO COLLABORATION. WE BOTH REALISE IT WOULD BE A WAY AHEAD, BOTH FOR JAPAN AND BRITAIN. SECONDLY, INVESTMENT FROM JAPAN INTO BRITAIN - LET'S DEAL WITH THE FIRST ONE FIRST. CAN I JUST MAKE ONE POINT CLEAR: WE SUGGESTED EIGHTEEN AND JAPAN SUGGESTED THREE. THAT'S JUST TO SHOW THAT WE ARE VERY ACTIVE. ONE OF THE WAYS OF IMPROVING THE ACTUAL BALANCE OF TRADE BETWEEN US IS TO HAVE MORE INVESTMENT INTO BRITAIN. I INDICATED THAT THERE ARE 24 JAPANESE COMPANIES THAT HAVE INVESTED IN BRITAIN. THEY ARE PERFORMING EXCELLENTLY, THE MANAGEMENT IS FIRST CLASS, THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS GOOD. WE'D LIKE SOME MORE. WE ARE USED OURSELVES TO INVESTING ON OTHER COUNTRIES, WE HAD TO IN THE PAST TO KEEP OUR TRADE IN FORMER COLONIAL TERRITORIES. THE UNITED STATES IS USED TO INVESTING OVERSEAS - WE HAVE A THOUSAND PROJECTS OF INVESTMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES IN BRITAIN. GERMANY HAD INVESTED 170 PROJECTS. JAPAN HAS 24. IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE AN IMMENSE HELP BOTH TO OUR UNEMPLOYMENT POSITION AND TO STOP CALLS FOR INCREASING PROTECTIONISM IF SOME OF THE THINGS WHICH YOU EXPORT TO US WERE ACTUALLY MANUFACTURED IN BRITAIN. THEY WILL STILL BE JAPANESE PRODUCTS, THEY WILL BE MANUFACTURED IN BRITAIN AND WE THEREFORE WOULD HAVE THE JOBS. IT IS A CLASSIC WAY OF KEEPING TRADE AND RESISTING CALLS FOR PROTECTIONISM AND I BELIEVE THAT WE'VE GOT THAT POINT ACROSS TOO. WHERE YOU'VE GOT A TOTAL IMBALANCE IN TRADE BETWEEN OURSELVES AND JAPAN WHICH WE HAVE IN MANUFACTURED GOODS, THAT IMBALANCE IS SO LARGE IT'S NOT GOING TO BE PUT RIGHT BY OUR BEING ABLE TO EXPORT MORE CAPITAL GOODS TO JAPAN WHICH IS WHY I CONCENTRATED ON HOW SUCCESSFUL WE ARE WITH THE SALE OF SOME CAPITAL GOODS IN OTHER COUNTRIES IF NOT IN JAPAN. BRITISH AREOSPACE 146 AIRCRAFT IS AN EXAMPLE. WE DO ALSO VERTICAL TAKEOFF AIRCRAFT, VERY GOOD, THAT HAS BEEN RECENTLY TESTED IN THE FALKLANDS, ABSOLUTELY SUPERB AND SO ON.

PM: I'LL HAVE TO ANSWER MORE BRIEFLY. I TEND TO GIVE FULL REASONS FOR EVERY ANSWER - SOMETIME YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE MY WORD FOR IT.

QUESTION: SORRY PRIME MINISTER THATCHER, BACK TO THE PIPELINE. YOU STATED THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE CONTRACT WITH THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ITS GAS PIPELINE BECAUSE OF CONTRACTS (INDECIPHERABLE) OF THE U S EMBARGO. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY AND CREDIT FOR PIPELINES REPORTEDLY IN THE PLANNING STAGE ? WOULD YOU JOIN THE U S PLAN TO BOYCOTT INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH A PROJECT ?

PM: WITHIN THE LIMITS I HAVE ALREADY INDICATED, WITH OUR VERY SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY WE ALREADY HAVE AN ARRANGEMENT SO THAT IS COVERED BY THE PARTICULAR COMMITTEE WHICH DEALS WITH THOSE THINGS. INSOFAR AS YOU HAVE TO CONTRACT FOR SOMETHING WITH THE SOVIET UNION WHICH AMERICA CLEARLY SAYS THAT SHE WOULD BE AGAINST AND WOULD STOP BY LICENSING AGREEMENTS WITH HER SUBSIDIARIES FOR THE EXPORT OF A VITAL PART, THERE'S NO POINT IN GOING FOR IT. BEYOND THAT, WE ARE FREE TO CONTRACT EXCEPT AS WE FREELY AGREE AMONG ONE OTHER, ALL OF US HAVING BEEN CONSULTED IN THE PROCESS AND HAVING AGREED TO AGREE

QUESTION: (INDECIPHERABLE)

PM: WHATEVER PIPELINE IT IS, IT FALLS WITHIN THE ANSWER I HAVE GIVEN. WE ARE NOT EXCLUDED FROM APPLYING FOR ANY CONTRACT, IF IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO DO IT, IF WE CAN IN FACT CARRY OUT THAT CONTRACT OUT OF GOODS WHICH WE MANUFACTURE OR TO WHICH WE HAVE FREE ACCESS. ONE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT THE UNITED STATES HAS DONE MAY WELL BE THAT ONE NO LONGER INCORPORATES AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY IN OUR EXPORTS AS WE HAVE DONE PREVIOUSLY BECAUSE IT MIGHT SUDDENLY BE CUT OFF. BUT BEYOND THAT, WE CAN AGREE TOGETHER WHAT WE SHALL NOT APPLY FOR AND STICK TO IT BUT THAT HAS TO BE AN AGREEMENT REACHED BY CONSULTATION AND NOT IMPOSED. WE ARE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US IN OECD, IN THE SUMMIT OF 7: FREE COUNTRIES. THAT MEANS WE CAN FREELY AGREE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES NOT TO DO CERTAIN THINGS BUT WE DON'T LIKE THING BEING IMPOSED UPON US.

QUESTION: YOU MENTIONED THE INVESTMENT OF JAPANESE COMPANIES. COULD YOU GIVE US AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHANCES OF NISSAN STILL COMING TO BRITAIN AFTER YOUR TALK WITH KAWAMATA OF NISSAN ? SECONDLY, YOU MENTIONED YOUR FORTHCOMING TALKS WITH CHINESE LEADERS ON HONG KONG. COULD YOU GIVE US SOME EXPLANATION OF YOUR HOPES OR GAINS WITH WHICH YOU ARE GOING INTO THESE TALKS ? AND THIRDLY, YOU HAVE MENTIONED IN YOUR SPEECH THAT BRITAIN HAS MADE A LOT OF EFFORTS, TOGETHER WITH OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, TO GET INTO THE JAPANESE MARKET BUT THEY HAVE EXPERIENCED DELAY AND ALSO THE LANGUAGE PROCESS CAN BE VERY TROUBLESOME. DO YOU THINK IT IS NECESSARY TO TRAIN PEOPLE TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE OR DO

YOU FEEL, LIKE THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE ?

PM: THREE POINTS ON NISSAN, HONG KONG AND LANGUAGE. ON NISSAN, MY TALKS WITH THE CHAIRMAN MUST REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. I REALISE THIS IS RARE TODAY BUT IT SOMETIMES IS NECESSARY. I MAKE IT VERY CLEAR THAT NISSAN WOULD BE VERY VERY WELCOME IN BRITAIN AND IF THE BOARD DECIDES TO INVEST IN EUROPE, THEN THERE'S A WARM WELCOME IN BRITAIN AS I HAVE INDICATED MANY TIMES. ON HONG KONG, WE HOPE WE MAKE THE KIND OF ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL KEEP THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG. THAT HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUS ADVANTAGE TO CHINA FROM WHICH SHE GETS SOME FORTY PER CENT OF HER FOREIGN CURRENCY AND IT IS VERY WELCOME AND HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUS ADVANTAGE TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN HONG KONG, OF WHOM THERE ARE NOW SOME FIVE MILLION. THEY HAVE DONE ALL THIS BY THEIR INDUSTRY AND HONG KONG IS NOW THE THIRD BIGGEST FINANCIAL CENTRE IN THE WORLD. I THINK WE WANT TO KEEP THE STABILITY AND PROSPERITY OF HONG KONG. ON LANGUAGE, I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF MORE OF US WERE MORE EXPERT IN JAPANESE. YOU VERY KINDLY ASKED THE QUESTION IN ENGLISH - YOU MAY ALSO BE AN EXPERT IN JAPANESE. WE SHOULD. BUT YOU KNOW WE ARE A VERY SHY PEOPLE AND WE DON'T HAVE MUCH OPPORTUNITY TO TALKS. THE AMERICANS SPEAK ENGLISH AND HAS MEANT THAT WE HAVEN'T HAD TO LEARN MANY FOREIGN LANGUAGES. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAS ASKED ME TO SAY THAT THE BRITISH EMBASSY HAS MORE JAPANESE SPEAKERS THAN ANY OTHER EMBASSY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY THOUGH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAS VASTLY MORE STAFF THAN WE DO.

QUESTION: PRIME MINISTER YOU DESCRIBED YOUR IMPRESSION OF YOUR VISIT TO JAPAN LAST TIME BY THE WORD 'DEDICATION'. NOW THIS TIME WHAT WORD WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO DESCRIBE YOUR IMPRESSION OF YOUR VISIT TO JAPAN ?

PM: WELL, IT'S BEEN VERY FRIENDLY, WE'VE HAD DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE MADE US UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER'S VIEWPOINTS AND I THINK AS A RESULT OF THIS VISIT, WE HAVE MORE CHANCES OF STOPPING PROTECTIONISM DEVELOPING BECAUSE I HOPE ONE'S GOT THE MESSAGE ACROSS THAT IT CAN BE STOPPED, BY THINGS LIKE INWARD INVESTMENT, MY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN INDUSTRIES, BY COLLABORATIVE VENTURES AND IN FACT BY JAPAN TAKING MORE MANUFACTURES INTO HER OWN MARKET. NOW IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEM, AND WE AS EXPORTERS DO, YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A MUCH BETTER BALANCE OF TRADE THAN WE'VE GOT NOW AND THE WAY TO DO IT PART OF THE WAY IS FOR JAPAN TO TAKE IN MORE MANUFACTURERS, AND ALSO TO HAVE A LOOK AT OTHER PEOPLE'S CAPITAL GOODS. IF WE'VE GOT A BETTER UNDERSTANDING THAT'S VERY GOOD. I STILL STICK ABSOLUTELY TO THE WORD 'DEDICATION' FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN IN INDUSTRY BY THE JAPANESE PEOPLE. IT IS MOST IMPRESSIVE AND THOSE OF YOU WHO CAME DOWN TO THE FANUC ROBOT FACTORY WILL HAVE SEEN SOMETHING THAT YOU COULD NOT SEE ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. IT'S VERY EXCITING. WE HAVE TO PUT ON OUR THINKING CAPS AS TO WHERE WE'RE GOING TO GET JOBS IN GENERAL FOR THE FUTURE.

QUESTION: (INDECIPHERABLE)

PM: I THINK THAT ATTITUDES TO INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY BY THOSE WHO ARE IN UNIVERSITIES, ARE CHANGING. I WOULD AGREE WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PROPOSITION THAT THERE'S NOT BEEN NEARLY A CLOSE ENOUGH RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS IN THE UNIVERSITIES AND INDUSTRY. THAT IS CHANGING AND MANY OF THEM ARE GETTING MUCH MORE COSELY INVOLVED (INDECIPHERABLE).

I ALSO THINK THAT TOO FEW OF THE FIRST-CLASS SCIENCE GRADUATES FROM UNIVERSITY HAVE GONE DIRECTLY INTO INDUSTRY. IF THEY GO EITHER INTO RESEARCH INSTITUTES OR STATE-OWNED RESEARCH SOMEHOW, THEN THAT WOULD MEAN A LOSS. IN UNIVERSITIES, YOU WILL FIND THAT JAPAN HAS CONCENTRATED FAR MORE ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCES, WHEREAS WE HAVE CONCENTRATED ON THE PURE SCIENCES. FOR EXAMPLE, JAPAN HAS FIVE TIMES AS MANY GRADUATE ENGINEERS AS BRITAIN HAS. NOW, EVEN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE POPULATION'S ABOUT TWICE AS BIG, YOU CAN STILL SEE THERE'S MUCH MORE EMPHASIS ON THE APPLICATION SCIENCES THAN ON THE PURE SCIENCES AND THAT TOO WE NEED TO REVISE. I DON'T THINK I WOULD SAY IT'S TRUE THAT IN GENERAL THERE'S A LOW ESTEEM OF EDUCATION AND MANY, MANY YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A VERY HIGH ESTEEM OF EDUCATION: YOU HAVE ONLY TO MENTION SCOTLAND TO REALISE THE HIGH ESTEEM OF EDUCATION AND FOR MANY OF US IT WAS THE ONLY WAY WE HAD TO GET ON IN LIFE UP THE LADDER AND TO BE ABLE TO TRAVEL AND TAKE JOBS ALMOST ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY OR IN THE WIDER WORLD. SO THERE WAS A TREMENDOUS ESTEEM FOR EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND, IN WALES FOR EXAMPLE AND IN VERY MANY PARTS IN ENGLAND. I WOULD STILL THINK THERE IS AN ESTEEM FOR EDUCATION BUT I THINK PEOPLE ARE NOT NECESSARILY NOW SEEING AT LEAST ALL THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF EARNING CAPACITY, OF HIGHER EDUCATION. THAT IS BECAUSE SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TAKING DEGREES WHICH ARE NOT NECESSARILY A PASSPORT TO A HIGHER SALARY BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT DEGREES AS SUCH WHICH LEAD TO JOBS. NEVERTHELESS, I PERSONALLY STILL REGARD IT AS A PRIVILEGE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THOSE DEGREES: ONE'S OWN PERSONAL REASONS EARLIER IN LIFE, AND I MYSELF HAVE A SCIENCE DEGREE - AND I WENT FOR POLITICS. IT SO HAPPENS THAT BOTH THE LAW AND SCIENCE ARE VERY USEFUL FOR POLITICS.

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