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EXEMPT

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FRENCH REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S DEATH

EXEMPT

23 Nov 63

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EXEMPT

The death of President KENNEDY has made an enormous impression in France and aroused an emotion [8M]. Government circles, beginning with DE GAULLE, immediately forgetting [4G] differences with the United States, are unanimous in exalting the image of the deceased President.

At the same time concern is not being concealed over the internal evolution of the United States, where political differences and the race conflict run the risk of being intensified.

On the international level, it is believed in Paris that the West has lost a leader of major prestige and force and that this will not fail to have repercussions on East-West relations.

JOHNSON is considered an obscure figure and a man, despite his (B val political) experience, of minor caliber, with the consequence of depriving the United States for [5G] a year, (B val that is), until the (B val next) elections, of any effective political direction. With the approach of the presidential elections the first signs were already (B val noted) of hesitation and indecision which diminished the capability for decision by the United States, and the death of President KENNEDY risks paralyzing [7G] Washington with unforeseeable consequences on both the domestic and the international levels.

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All agree, then, in [EXEMPT] over and above the differences,
that Europe has lost [EXEMPT] (B val the West) one of its best
leaders.

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