

## **Clips from France.**

### **Rugby France:**

Such was the national enthusiasm that one TV program interviewed for their views on France's chances against England, the President of Peugeot-Citroen Motors, a dustman, a chef, a school-girl and the French Nobel Prize winner.

Also interviewed was the team's special defence coach, an Englishman, whose mobile plays 'God Save the Queen'.

The weather forecast, on the day of the big France- England game, was enlivened by a second forecaster running on in full rugby strip, carrying a rugby ball, and then doing stretching exercises and push-ups in full camera, while the first forecaster carried on studiously talking of the weather.

### **Green France:**

Plans are being prepared to make all new houses energy self-sufficient by 2020.

A new rail route from the North of France to the South, 600 miles long, will transport the equivalent of 30,000 trailer loads of containers a year, thus decongesting the motorways and dramatically reducing the carbon footprint.

Likewise, special barges are planned to take container loads down the Seine from Rouen to the port of Le Havre, replacing 12,600 truck journeys per annum.

### **Striking France:**

When Sarkozy announced that all public sector workers should, like other people, continue working until 60 or 65 instead of 50 or 55, the transport unions took to the streets and trains, tube lines and the elegant trams of France's major cities stopped for a day. 20,000 protested in Paris, and thousands in sixty other towns. More strikes are threatened. Nobody thinks they will win.

### **Divorcing France:**

When questioned by the prying media about his divorce, Sarkozy said: "The French people have elected me to do a job. They have not asked me to talk about my private life. In this, they showed more intelligence than you do. More civility, and if I may say so, more elegance".

### **France Abroad:**

In Russia, Sarkozy gave a lecture to Russian university students. He said: 'In my country,

nobody is above the law. And that's a good thing. And to be open, tolerant and of good will is a good thing. It conduces friendship'. Vladimir Putin nodded affirmatively.

In addition to Russia, the President and his diplomats have been active in Bulgaria, Washington, Beirut, Jerusalem, to name but a few of their destinations.

In tune with this remarkable international activity, all the members of the French Cabinet left Paris to hold their second full meeting in - Corsica.

Ribot des Buquets.