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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

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TEXT
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, BE, VT, PL

SUBJECT: BELGIUM'S CARDINAL DANEELS SAYS AUSCHWITZ SETTLEMENT
REMAINS ON TRACK

FOR COORDINATION WITH ed 3 fate

1. DURING A CALL BY CON GEN ON BELGIUM'S CARDINAL DANEELS, THE CARDINAL STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT THE ISSUE OF THE CARMELITE CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ WILL BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. IT WILL LIKELY TAKE ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO TO IMPLEMENT THE SOLUTION, BUT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY DOUBT, THE CARDINAL SAID, THAT THE AGREED UPON FORMULA WILL BE SEEN TO CONCLUSION. THE SOLUTION IS A GOOD AND FAIR ONE, HE SAID, ENTAILING THE RELOCATION OF THE CONVENT TO A SITE 200 OR 300 METERS OUTSIDE THE GATES OF THE CAMP ALONG WITH THE CREATION OF A CENTER FOR JEWISH-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE. DANEELS STATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE CONCERNS OF POLES WHO BELIEVED THAT, SINCE POLES ALSO DIED AT AUSCHWITZ, THE NUNS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PRAY AT THE SITE. BUT, HE ADDED, IT IS OF OVERRIDING CONCERN THAT "THE SHOAH" BE RESPECTED, AND THEREFORE IT IS BETTER TO HAVE AUSCHWITZ REMAIN A PLACE OF SILENT MEDITATION DEVOID OF SYMBOLS.

2. DANEELS NOTED THAT HIS OWN POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS THE MOST DELICATE OF ALL THE PARTICIPANTS, SINCE HE WAS THE ONLY ONE BRINGING A FAIRLY NEUTRAL BACKGROUND TO THE PROCESS. AMONG THE OTHERS, THE CARDINAL OF PARIS WAS A JEWISH CONVERT TO CATHOLICISM; THE CARDINAL OF LYON HAD JUST GONE THROUGH THE

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DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE OF THE **KLAUS BARBIE** TRIAL; AND THE CARDINAL OF KRAKOW WAS SUBJECT TO ENORMOUS PRESSURES FROM THE POLISH CITIZENRY.

DANEELS THUS FELT UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE, BECAUSE HIS OPINIONS AND VOICE CARRIED SIGNIFICANT WEIGHT.

3. THE DECISION WAS A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT ONE FOR THE POPE, DANEELS SAID. BECAUSE OF HIS POLISH BACKGROUND, INCLUDING SERVICE AS THE BISHOP OF KRAKOW, THE POPE WELL UNDERSTOOD THE SENSITIVITIES AND EMOTIONS OF THE POLISH PEOPLE. NONETHELESS, DANEELS SAID, THE POPE QUICKLY REALIZED THAT THE SOLUTION REACHED WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GO.

KREBS

ADMIN

END OF MESSAGE

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