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**NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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TEXT
TAGS: PGOV, EFIN, PHUM, PREL, AU
SUBJECT: "NAZI GOLD" IN AUSTRIA: A NEW (OLD) STORY

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE TREAT ACCORDINGLY.
2. IN ITS DECEMBER 2 EDITION, THE INDEPENDENT WEEKLY MAGAZINE "PROFIL" CARRIES A REPORT ON "HIDDEN NAZI GOLD" IN THE PROVINCE OF UPPER AUSTRIA. BASING ITS REPORT ON A JULY 1947 U.S. COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS (CIC) DOCUMENT,

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THE AUTHORS OF THE ARTICLE, "PROFIL" CHIEF EDITOR HERBERT LACKNER AND THE JOURNALIST ROBERT BUCHACHER MAINTAIN THAT "SEVERAL CHESTS CONTAINING GOLD AND FOREIGN CURRENCY" WERE STORED BY THE NAZIS IN THE LAST DAYS BEFORE THE END OF WORLD WAR II ON THE "BLAA ALM" NEAR ALTAUSSEE IN THE PROVINCE OF UPPER AUSTRIA. THE 40-PAGE CIC REPORT WAS REPORTEDLY COMPILED BY CIC SPECIAL AGENT FRANK P. DITRICKY AND WAS ENTITLED "CONCEALED GOLD, JEWELRY, FOREIGN EXCHANGE, AND WEAPONS, BELIEVED TO BE LOCATED IN THE SALZKAMMERGUT, IN ZELLER SEE, LAND SALZBURG, AND IN THE TYROL." THE JOURNALISTS DID NOT COMMENT ON HOW THE REPORT CAME INTO THEIR POSSESSION.

3. "PROFIL" CLAIMS THAT THE NAZI GOLD WAS BROUGHT TO THE BLAA ALM BY A GROUP ASSOCIATED WITH **ADOLF EICHMANN**. THE ARTICLE QUOTES THE CIC REPORT AS SAYING THAT, IN 1947, THE GOLD WAS THOUGHT TO BE STILL ON BLAA ALM. LEAVING OPEN THE QUESTION WHETHER THE GOLD IS STILL THERE, THE JOURNALISTS ALLEGE THAT, IN THE 1970'S AND 80'S, CHILDREN OF NAZIS BOUGHT LAND ON BLAA ALM. "PROFIL" ALSO NOTES THAT THE GOLD WAS USED TO ENABLE NAZIS TO ESCAPE. THE ARTICLE EXPLAINS THAT THE GOLD IS, ACCORDING TO THE CIC REPORT, PRIMARILY OF AUSTRIAN ORIGIN, STEMMING FROM CHURCHES, BANKS, PRIVATE AND STATE PROPERTY. "PROFIL" ALSO NOTES THAT PART OF THE GOLD WAS REVENUES DERIVED FROM MONEY RECEIVED FOR JEWS "RANSOMED" BY FOREIGN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS.

COMMENT

4. "PROFIL" REPORTS ON EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATIONS BY THE AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES AND THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION FORCES AFTER THE WAR TO TRY TO FIND THE HIDDEN NAZI TREASURE, AS WELL AS EFFORTS BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS TRYING TO LOCATE THE GOLD WHILE "HIKING" OR "MUSHROOM HUNTING" ON BLAA ALM. HIDDEN NAZI GOLD HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF PUBLIC SPECULATION IN AUSTRIA FOR DECADES; ONE LEGEND CONCERNED A NOTORIOUS TREASURE IN LAKE TOPLITZ IN UPPER AUSTRIA. REGARDLESS OF THE ACCURACY OF THE CIC REPORT, IT REMAINS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE NAZI TREASURE STILL EXISTS, AND IF SO, WHETHER IT COULD EVER BE FOUND. A REPORT IN THE DECEMBER 2 EDITION OF THE DAILY "KURIER" CONTAINS THE COMMENT THAT, IN CONTRAST TO THE CASE OF NAZI GOLD HIDDEN IN SWITZERLAND, OWNERS OF ANY TREASURE HIDDEN IN UPPER AUSTRIA WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TRACE. HUNT

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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