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TEXT
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN NEWS ROUND-UP FOR MAY 19, 1995

SUMMARY:

1. IN THE FOLLOWING REPORT: MASS-CIRCULATION DAILY "NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG" REPORTS ABOUT F-MOVEMENT CHAIRMAN

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JOERG HAIDER'S VISIT TO THE U.S. AND MEETING WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL. "DER STANDARD" REPORTS THAT THE AUSTRIAN GREENS HAVE CALLED UPON THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO CLARIFY WHETHER THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN CAIRO MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN HELPING NAZI WAR CRIMINAL ALOIS BRUNNER TO ESCAPE TO ARGENTINA. FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMP PRISONER

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ELLIOT WELLES WAS GIVEN BACK AUSTRIAN CITIZENSHIP BY AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT. ALSO: THE BILL TO CREATE A REPARATIONS FUND FOR VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM REMAINS UNCHANGED, DESPITE CRITICISM FROM THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. AND: THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PRESENTED THE ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 1996 EU GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE.

"UN CHIEF TELLS HAIDER ABOUT HIS PROBLEMS IN THE BALKANS: WHO IS KIDDING WHOM?"

2. THIS IS THE TITLE OF AN ARTICLE IN THE MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID "NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG," WHICH FOLLOWS REPORTS IN THE WEEKLY POLITICAL MAGAZINE "PROFIL," AND THE QUALITY DAILIES "DIE PRESSE" AND "DER STANDARD" ABOUT F-CHAIRMAN JOERG HAIDER'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. WHILE ALL PREVIOUS REPORTS HAVE RANGED FROM CRITICAL TO IRONIC, IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO HAIDER'S PRESENTING HIMSELF IN THE UNITED STATES AS THE HEAD OF THE "LIBERAL PARTY IN AUSTRIA," "KRONEN ZEITUNG" CARRIES A QUITE POSITIVE STORY, WRITTEN BY HANS JANITSCHKE, WHO IS ON TOUR WITH HAIDER AND TRANSLATED HAIDER'S BOOK "THE FREEDOM I MEAN" INTO ENGLISH.

3. AS "KRONEN ZEITUNG" REPORTS, UN SECRETARY GENERAL BOUTROS-GHALI SPOKE WITH HAIDER ON THE BOSNIAN SITUATION, CRITICIZING THAT THE MAJOR POWERS "LACKED POLITICAL WILL AND MILITARY STRENGTH" AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD "SOON HAVE TO WITHDRAW THE UN TROOPS COMPLETELY... ON THE ONE HAND, I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE THAN TO SECURE PEACE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY LET US STAND IN THE RAIN WHEN OUR SOLDIERS ARE ATTACKED."

THE ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT HAIDER ARGUED THAT A TOTAL UN WITHDRAWAL WOULD LEAD TO A "REAL WAR," TO WHICH BOUTROS-GHALI REPLIED, "CERTAINLY, A REAL OUTBREAK OF THE WAR WOULD BE THE CONSEQUENCE, WITH ALL ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SURROUNDING STATES." ACCORDING TO "KRONEN ZEITUNG," BOUTROS-GHALI "AVOIDED" ANSWERING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE RUSSIAN TROOPS WILL BE STAYING. "AS I WAS TOLD, THEY WILL FOLLOW THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH TROOPS...."

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4. "HAIDER ALSO VISITED THE NEW 'BORDER FORTIFICATIONS' AT THE U.S./MEXICAN BORDER, MET WITH THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA, GAVE LECTURES AT UNIVERSITIES AND TALKED TO SENATORS IN WASHINGTON ABOUT IMMIGRATION AND SECURITY

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ISSUES. HE VISITED THE PENTAGON, THE RAND CORPORATION, AND SUPPORTED AUSTRIAN NATO MEMBERSHIP AT A PRESS CONFERENCE," THE ARTICLE CONTINUES.

5. IT CONCLUDES, "ON THE U.S./MEXICAN BORDER, WHICH HAIDER VISITED ON THE INVITATION OF THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, HE TOLD 'KRONEN ZEITUNG' THAT SUCH 'BORDER FORTIFICATIONS' WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IN AUSTRIA, AS THEY WOULD CALL TO MIND TOO MANY BAD MEMORIES OF THE COMMUNIST REGIME."

DID NAZI WAR CRIMINAL BRUNNER ESCAPE TO ARGENTINA WITH AUSTRIAN ASSISTANCE?

6. AS INDEPENDENT "DER STANDARD" REPORTS ON MAY 19, THE AUSTRIAN GREENS HAVE CALLED UPON FOREIGN MINISTER SCHUESSEL TO CLARIFY WHETHER THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN CAIRO HELPED 83-YEAR-OLD NAZI WAR CRIMINAL ALOIS BRUNNER TO ESCAPE TO ARGENTINA. THE ARTICLE REPORTS THAT THE SIMON-WIESENTHAL CENTER REPORTED THIS WEEK THAT BRUNNER, WHO LIVED IN DAMASCUS FOR A LONG TIME, MIGHT CURRENTLY BE LIVING IN AN INACCESSIBLE BORDER AREA IN ARGENTINA. "DER STANDARD" QUOTES THE GERMAN MAGAZINE "FOCUS" AS THE SOURCE OF SPECULATION THAT THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN CAIRO MIGHT HAVE ISSUED A PASSPORT TO BRUNNER, WHO WAS TRAVELLING UNDER A FALSE NAME.

CITIZENSHIP AWARDED TO ELLIOT WELLES -- AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT REGRETS AUSTRIA'S SLOWNESS IN INVITING BACK JEWISH EMIGREES:

7. WHEN AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT KLESTIL GAVE BACK AUSTRIAN CITIZENSHIP TO ELLIOT WELLES, EUROPEAN DIRECTOR OF THE JEWISH ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, HE EXPRESSED HIS REGRET AT AUSTRIA'S FAILURE TO DO SO EARLIER. 'IT IS AN OPPRESSIVE THOUGHT FOR ME THAT THE POST-WAR DEMOCRATIC AUSTRIA TOOK SO LONG TO OFFICIALLY INVITE THOSE OF ITS JEWISH CITIZENS

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WHO HAD TO LEAVE THIS COUNTRY, TO COME BACK HOME,' PRESIDENT KLESTIL SAID AT A CEREMONY IN THE HOFBURG.

WELLES WAS BORN IN AUSTRIA IN 1927, MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM THE BUCHENWALD CONCENTRATION CAMP UNDER THE NAZI REGIME, AND EMIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES. SPEAKING TO THE HEADS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN VIENNA, KLESTIL THANKED WELLES FOR HIS 'PROFOUND TIES WITH AUSTRIA.'

BILL FOR FUND FOR VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM TO REMAIN UNCHANGED:

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8. AS ANNOUNCED BY CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY EARLIER THIS YEAR, A FUND FOR REPARATION PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM WILL BE ESTABLISHED THIS SPRING. THE FUND WILL BE LOCATED IN THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT AND BE OPEN FOR CLAIMS BY PERSONS WHO FOR REASONS OF POLITICS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR HEALTH IMPAIRMENT, HAD BECOME VICTIMS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST REGIME, OR PERSONS WHO LEFT THE COUNTRY TO FLEE FROM NATIONAL SOCIALIST PERSECUTION.

DESPITE CRITICISM BY THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN VIENNA, IN PARTICULAR BY THE HEAD OF THE "ISRAELITISCHE KULTUSGEMEINDE," PAUL GROSZ, WHO WOULD HAVE PREFERRED LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS, SPO PARLIAMENTARY PARTY CHAIRMAN KOSTELKA ANNOUNCED THAT THE BILL IS GOING TO BE PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT WITHOUT CHANGES. THE FUND WILL HAVE A STARTING BUDGET OF 500 MILLION SCHILLINGS AND BE DECIDED UPON IN PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 1. APPLICATIONS CAN THUS BE CONSIDERED BEGINNING JULY 1. (WIENER ZEITUNG, SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ADOPTS STRATEGY FOR 1996 SUMMIT --
NEUTRALS WILL NOT BE "FORCED TO PARTICIPATE":

9. AS ALL MAJOR PAPERS REPORT, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AGREED ON MAY 17 ON ITS POLICY AT THE EU MAASTRICHT REVIEW CONFERENCE OF 1996. ACCORDING TO THE "BOURLANGES AND MARTIN" PLAN, THE EU PARLIAMENT WOULD LIKE TO "MOULD" THE WEU INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION. THE PARLIAMENT DECIDED,

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HOWEVER, THAT NEUTRAL EU MEMBER STATES (AUSTRIA, IRELAND, SWEDEN, AND FINLAND) WILL NOT BE FORCED TO PARTICIPATE IN SUBSEQUENT JOINT MILITARY, HUMANITARIAN, OR DIPLOMATIC Q(M2G1R)ACTIONS, AS LONG AS THESE COUNTRIES ARE NOT AN "OBSTACLE" TO THE EU'S COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY.

END REPORT
SPRINGER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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