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CIA/CR/76-11503

Kurt WALDHEIM
(Phonetic: VALThime)

AUSTRIA

Secretary General
of the United NationsAddressed as:
Mr. Secretary General

Kurt Waldheim, 57, a seasoned career diplomat, was elected Secretary General of the United Nations in December 1971. He had previously served as Austria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (1964-68; 1970-71) and as Foreign Minister (1968-70). His election to the UN post was in part a result of his being the candidate who was least offensive in the eyes of the UN Security Council. Since then he has confounded his critics by his diplomatic activism and has used his energy as a tireless traveler for peace. He attended UNCTAD II in New Delhi (1968) and UNCTAD III in Santiago (1972).

In Waldheim's view, slowing the worldwide armaments race and the settlement of regional conflicts are among the most pressing problems facing the United Nations. He considers Cyprus to be the one relatively bright spot on this gloomy horizon, and he expects "concrete proposals" to result from the next meeting (Vienna, May 1976) of the parties to that dispute.

As of March 1976 Waldheim appeared to radiate good health; his family, however, favors his resignation for health reasons when his term of office expires at the end of 1976. Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has said privately that he might offer Waldheim the Foreign Ministry. Waldheim is a good friend of the United States. Married, he has three children. He speaks French, Italian and fluent English.

15 April 1976
CR M 76-11503DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
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DATE 2001 2007Classified by 004050
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Authority: E.O. 11652
Date: 10/20/00 10/20/00

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