

CONFIDENTIAL
NOFORN

CIA/CR/76-13292 M

Kurt WALDHEIM
(Phonetic: VALThime)

AUSTRIA

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

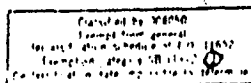
MICROFILMED

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 he has used his energy as a tireless traveler for peace. 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.

Recently, in an interview concerning the Israeli raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda in July 1976 in connection with a skyjacking, Waldheim tried to keep in perspective its humanitarian and legal aspects. He lauded the saving of innocent hostages' lives, while at the same time noting that the raid violated a UN member's sovereignty. His remarks drew some criticism, and he resented being attacked for defending international law and ascribed malicious intent to those who charged him with playing Third World politics in a possible bid for reelection as UN Secretary General.

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. Waldheim is a good friend of the United States. Married, he has three children. He speaks French, Italian and fluent English.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007



CONFIDENTIAL

2 August 1976
CR M 76-13292