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DOCUMENT ID: 47366012
INQNO: DOC1AD 00118649
DOCNO:
PRODUCER:
SOURCE: DODIR
DOCTYPE:
DOR: 19850211
TOR: 17460000
DOCPREC: R
ORIGDATE: 198502111746
DOCCLASS: C

HEADER

RR RUEAIIA
DE RUEHVI #2113/02 0421714
ZNY CCCCC
R 111653Z FEB 85
FM USDAO VIENNA
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC//DB-3B2/DB-3B3//
INFO RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC//EURA-EID-SIB//
RUCBSAA/FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
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RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ2-C/ECJ2-W//
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 07 VIENNA 02113
NOFORN
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TEXT

SERIAL: (U) 6 806 0021 85
COUNTRY: (U) AUSTRIA (AU)
SUBJ: IIR 6 806 0021 85 THE REDER INCIDENT-AN
CELLOR ((SINOWATZ)) AND UP TO LATE SUMMER 1984 LORD MAYOR
OF VIENNA, IS COMING INCREASINGLY UNDER THE GUN. HE HAD
BEEN HEAVED INTO THE GOVERNMENT SO AS TO GIVE HIM POLITIC-
AL LIMELIGHT AND THUS THE NECESSARY CREDENTIALS TO BE
THE PLAUSIBLE SPO CANDIDATE FOR THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS
(1986) FOR THE POST OF FEDERAL PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIA. (NOTE:
THE OVP CANDIDATE IS **KURT WALDHEIM.**) ALTHOUGH KNOWN FOR
HIS "LAID-BACK" MANAGEMENT STYLE AND HIS HABIT OF BEING
ABSENT WHEN CRUCIAL DECISIONS NEED TO BE MADE, HE WAS
APPOINTED MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE 5 FEB 85 ISSUE
OF "WOCHENPRESSE" POINTS OUT GRATZ'S ATTENDANCE AS A YOUTH
AT A NATIONALSOZIALIST EDUCATIONAL ACADEMY (NAPOLA) THE
GRADUATES OF WHICH WERE SPECIFICALLY TRAINED IN LEADER-
SHIP AND WERE TO HAVE BEEN THE OFFICER CANDIDATES FOR THE
WAFFEN-SS. DESPITE THIS "TRAINING" NO "ALARM-BELLS" WENT
OFF IN HIS MIND AT THE POOR TIMING OF REDER'S RETURN.
AFTER ALL--THE JEWISH WORLD CONGRESS IN VIENNA, THE 40

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YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF AUSCHWITZ, THE 40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE 3D REICH AND RETURN OF REDER--ALL HAPPEN TO COINCIDE. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS THAT MORE SENSITIVITY WOULD BE REQUIRED. THIS INSENSITIVITY WILL PROBABLY COST GRATZ HIS CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES QUOTING KREISKY: "HE WON'T EVEN BE NOMINATED." (COMMENT: IT MUST BE KEPT IN MIND THAT ONLY THE ELITE OF NAZI YOUTH WAS SELECTED INTO THE NAPOLA. THE SURFACING OF GRATZ'S NAZI BACKGROUND SHOULD DEFINITELY IMPAIR HIS FUTURE EFFECTIVENESS.)

5. (U) IMPACT ON THE MILITARY

A. (U) THE INITIAL REACTION TO FRISCHENSLAGER'S ACTIONS ON PART OF THE AUSTRIAN MILITARY CAME FROM COLONEL OF THE GENERAL STAFF, KARL ((SEMLITSCH)), HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF DEFENSE POLICY, A STAFF ELEMENT DIRECTLY IN THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. SEMLITSCH IS QUOTED IN THE 27 JAN 85 ISSUE OF THE DAILY "KURIER" AS BEING OF THE OPINION THAT FRISCHENSLAGER'S ACTION AND HIS INVOLVING THE AUSTRIAN MILITARY PERFORCE BROUGHT THE AUSTRIAN MILITARY INTO CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH THE GERMAN WEHRMACHT AND THE WAFFEN-SS. ALL THE EFFORTS TO PART WITH THAT HISTORY AND EMPHASIZE THE NEW DEMOCRATIC VALUES, SEMLITSCH FEELS, HAVE NOW BEEN NEGATED. THERE COULD HAVE BEEN OTHER SOLUTIONS, HE MAINTAINED, AND DEMANDED A SPEEDY CLARIFICATION. SEMLITSCH, WHO DESPITE BEING A STAUNCH SPO MEMBER, BELONGS TO THE INNER CIRCLE OF ADVISORS, AND HAS VERY ACTIVELY BEEN SUPPORTING THE POLICIES OF FRISCHENSLAGER. HAD HE BEEN ASKED FOR ADVICE ON THE REDER CASE, HE CLAIMS HE WOULD HAVE ADVISED AGAINST ANY INVOLVEMENT. FRISCHENSLAGER'S ACTION IMPACTS HEAVILY ON THE LOYALTY THE ARMED FORCES OWE THEIR MINISTER, HE FEELS.

B. (U) ALREADY IN THE 26 JAN 85 ISSUE OF "KURIER" AN EDITORIAL CRITIZED THE SHAME THAT FRISCHENSLAGER BROUGHT UPON THE AUSTRIAN MILITARY BY PERSONALLY BRINGING REDER "HOME" AND GIVING HIM MILITARY QUARTERS. "THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF A DEMOCRATIC ARMY PLAYS BRIDESMAID TO A CONDEMNED WAR CRIMINAL! WALTER REDER COULD HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY THE RED CROSS, THERE WAS NO REASON FOR FRISCHENSLAGER TO PRESENT REDER WITH A MILITARY RECEPTION."

C. (U) ON 31 JAN 85 THE COMMANDANT OF THE ARMY, GENERAL HANNES ((PHILIPP)) PUBLISHED A SPECIAL ORDER-OF-THE-DAY IN WHICH HE STATED THAT MINISTER FRISCHENSLAGER WELCOMED REDER IN "HIS CAPACITY AS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT." THUS HE IS RESPONSIBLE EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHANCELLOR AND THE AUSTRIAN CONGRESS. PHILIPP EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRIMACY OF POLITICAL DECISIONS IS UNQUESTIONED BY THE ARMY AND FURTHERMORE, THE ARMY IS SO SECURE IN ITSELF THAT IT WILL NOT BE SHAKEN BY DIFFERENT POLITICAL OPINION. THE NEWS OF THE ORDER-OF-THE-DAY WAS BROUGHT BY ALL NEWS MBDIA. IT WAS THE "SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN", FRISCHENSLAGER'S HOMETOWN PAPER, THAT REPORTED POINTEDLY IN ITS 2 FEB 85 ISSUE THAT FRISCHENSLAGER HAD NOT TAKEN A STAND ON PHILIPP'S COMMENTS.

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