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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, PAR-AU, SP, SW, EEC, XL, XK, GR
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO. 42/86, FOR 3/5/86

WALDHEIM'S ALLEGED NAZI PAST

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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1. REACTING TO A "NEW YORK TIMES" REPORT ON HIS WARTIME ASSIGNMENT TO A GERMAN ARMY UNIT INVOLVED IN WAR CRIMES, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE **KURT WALDHEIM** STRONGLY DENIED ANY PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF OR INVOLVEMENT WITH THIS UNIT. HE ASSERTED THAT HE HAD FOR A TIME SERVED AS AN INTERPRETER AND ASSISTANT ADJUTANT ON THE STAFF OF THE GERMAN ARMY GROUP HEADQUARTERED IN THESSALONIKI AND COMMANDED BY GEN. ALEXANDER LOEHR (LATER EXECUTED AS A WAR CRIMINAL IN YUGOSLAVIA). WALDHEIM CONSIDERED IT SIGNIFICANT THAT THESE CHARGES WERE ONLY MADE 40 YEARS LATER AT A TIME WHEN HE IS CAMPAIGNING FOR PRESIDENT. IN A RADIO INTERVIEW THIS MORNING, PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP) CHAIRMAN ALOIS MOCK EXPRESSED FULL CONFIDENCE IN WALDHEIM AND HINTED THAT THIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM WAS LAUNCHED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, SOCIALIST AZ, ORF MORNING NEWSCAST, MARCH 5)

IDU-EDU MEETING TO DISCUSS LATIN AMERICA

2. OVP CHAIRMAN ALOIS MOCK TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT LATIN AMERICA WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF DELIBERATIONS DURING THE UPCOMING IDU AND EDU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN LONDON MARCH 7-8. MOCK THOUGHT THE LONDON MEETING WOULD FOCUS ON THE CARIBBEAN DEMOCRAT UNION, THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, AND CONDITIONS IN LATIN AMERICAN IN GENERAL. HE ALSO THOUGHT DISARMAMENT WOULD BE DISCUSSED. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN EL SALVADOR, MOCK ADMITTED THAT PRESIDENT NAPOLEON DUARTE DOES MAKE MISTAKES, BUT CAUTIONED THAT HE IS THE ONLY GUARANTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT IN THAT COUNTRY. CONCERNING NICARAGUA, MOCK REVEALED THAT THE LONDON MEETING PARTICIPANTS WILL DISCUSS A PEACE INITIATIVE OF THE SIX NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION PARTIES. MOCK HOPES TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL FOR THE INITIATIVE. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, MARCH 5) --- IN A VIENNA PRESS CONFERENCE, LAURA PINTO AND FLOR MARIA DIAZ, REPRESENTATIVES OF A SALVADORAN COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS OF VICTIMS OF PERSECUTION (COMADRES), CALLED FOR AN HONEST DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE DUARTE ADMINISTRATION AND THE FMLN TO END THE CIVIL WAR. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MARCH 5)

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES MADRID VISIT

3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO SPAIN MARCH 4, FOREIGN MINISTER LEOPOLD GRATZ REAFFIRMED AUSTRIA'S POSITIVE REACTION TO SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. HE DISCLOSED TO THE PRESS THAT THERE WILL BE A CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN

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VIENNA AND MADRID ON THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS RESULTING FROM SPAIN'S ENTRY INTO THE EEC. GRATZ ALSO REVEALED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON CLOSER COOPERATION TO COMBAT TERRORISM. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MARCH 5)

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POPULAR INITIATIVE AGAINST DRAKEN INTERCEPTORS

4. STYRIAN GOVERNOR JOSEF KRAINER SIGNED THE POPULAR INITIATIVE AGAINST THE PURCHASE OF SWEDISH DRAKEN INTERCEPTORS. THE PETITION IS OPEN FOR SIGNING THROUGHOUT STYRIA THIS WEEK. KRAINER STRESSED THAT THE STYRIAN OVP ORGANIZATION, WHICH SUPPORTS THE PETITION, IS NOT OPPOSED TO INTERCEPTOR AIRCRAFT IN PRINCIPLE. THE OVP IS ONLY OPPOSED TO THE PURCHASE OF THE DRAKENS, WHICH IT CONSIDERS OBSOLETE. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, GRAZ PAPERS, ET AL., MARCH 5)

INSURANCE FRAUD SCANDAL

5. VIENNA CITY COMMISSIONER ANTON FUERST, FORMER SECRETARY OF THE VIENNA OVP ORGANIZATION, RESIGNED MARCH 4 AFTER BEING NAMED AS A BENEFICIARY OF AN INSURANCE FRAUD. FUERST HAD ALREADY RETURNED THE MONEY HE HAD RECEIVED AS A CONSULTANT FOR THE BUNDESLAENDER INSURANCE COMPANY, CLAIMING HE WAS AN UNWITTING BENEFICIARY OF THE AFFAIR. FORMER BUNDESLAENDER CHIEF EXECUTIVE KURT RUSO HAD ILLEGALLY PAID OUT APPROXIMATELY 65 MILLION SCHILLINGS ON FICTIONAL DAMAGE CLAIMS. VIENNA OVP CHAIRMAN ERHARD BUSEK REJECTED SPO CHARGES THAT HIS PARTY HAD BENEFITED FROM THE FRAUD. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, ET AL., MARCH 5).

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END OF MESSAGE

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