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CONTROLS

CONFIDENTIAL THESSALONIKI 0162

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TEXT

TAGS: AU, GR, PHUM, PGOV

SUBJECT: WALDHEIM IN THESSALONIKI: NO LINKS THUS FAR TO JEWISH

DEPORTATION IN WW II (C)

1. (C) FOLLOWING REVELATIONS REGARDING KURT WALDHEIM'S ALLEGED CONNECTION WITH JEWISH DEPORTATIONS IN THESSALONIKI, POST DISCUSSED THE ISSUE WITH LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS, THE MINISTRY OF NORTHERN GREECE (MONG) AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. JEWISH LEADERS REPORT THEY CAN LOCATE NO EVIDENCE IN THEIR ARCHIVES ON WALDHEIM; NOR DO ANY ELDERLY THESSALONIKI SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBER HIM. ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY INCOMPLETE, JEWISH RECORDS IN THESSALONIKI ARE STILL THE BEST LOCAL SOURCE ON GERMAN CONDUCT AGAINST THE ONCE-THRIVING JEWISH COMMUNITY. IN ADDITION TO THE NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, NEITHER THE MONG NOR THE CITY OR REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON WALDHEIM.

2. (LOU) GREEK PRESS REPORTS CITE HAGEN FLEISCHER, A GERMAN PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CRETE WHO IS THE AUTHOR OF A BOOK ON THE NAZI OCCUPATION IN GREECE, AS STATING THAT WALDHEIM WAS A "SECOND OR THIRD-RATE FIGURE" IN THE OCCUPATION FORCES AND LITTLE MORE THAN AN OPPORTUNIST. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, FLEISCHER TOLD REUTERS IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW THAT WALDHEIM HAD

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIBENCE ABENCY SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3 B 2 B NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2001 2007

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT 2000

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QUOTE NOTHING TO DO WITH GREEK JEWRY END QUOTE. LOCAL PRESS TREATMENT HAS BEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD. INSOFAR AS WE KNOW, NO EVIDENCE HAS BEEN UNCOVERED HERE LINKING WALDHEIM TO THE DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM THESSALONIKI OR ANY WARTIME ATROCITIES. BRAMANTE

END OF MESSAGE

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