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DOCUMENT_ID: 21230492
INQNO: DOC2D 00422045
DOCNO: TEL 003682 86
PRODUCER: VIENNA
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19860312
TOR: 034852
DOCPREC: R
ORIGDATE: 198603101604
MHFNO: 86 0185952
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER

RR RUEAIIB
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
STU7824
RR RUEHC
DE RUEHVI #3682/01 0691607
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 101604Z MAR 86
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3055
INFO RUEHDC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 9289
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 0830
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0918
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 1952
RUFHBE/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 7608
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 3722
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0888
RUFHDB/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN 1028
RUFHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0661
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1915
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 8811
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 2841
RUEHAU/AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI 0277
RUFHBE/AMCONSUL ZAGREB 2326
BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS VIENNA 03682

STATE FOR EUR/CE, INR/WEA AND INR/P
USIA FOR EU
USDOC FOR IEP/EUR/OWE FOR P.COMBE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU, PTER, XF, UR, GE, IT, GR, YO
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.45/86, FOR 03/10/86

PRESIDENTS OF WEST GERMANY AND IRELAND EXPECTED IN VIENNA

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1. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, PRESIDENT PATRICK J. HILLERY OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND WILL PAY A STATE VISIT TO AUSTRIA APR. 1-4. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MARCH 8) --- WEST GERMAN PRESIDENT RICHARD VON WEIZSAECKER'S STATE VISIT TO AUSTRIA MARCH 18-20 WILL BE MARKED BY THE CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT RUDOLF KIRCHSCHLAEGER, A PRESS PREVIEW NOTES. THE VISIT WILL ALSO OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN FRG FOREIGN MINISTER HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER WITH AUSTRIAN COUNTERPART LEOPOLD GRATZ ON CURRENT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, MARCH 1U)

ALGERIAN INTERIOR MINISTER IN AUSTRIA

2. ALGERIAN INTERIOR MINISTER M'HAMED HADJ YALA ARRIVED IN VIENNA MARCH 6 FOR A THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT. ASIDE FROM A DISCUSSION ON ROUTINE POLICE MATTERS, AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTER KARL BLECHA'S TALKS WITH YALA FOCUSED ON JOINT MEASURES AGAINST TERRORISM. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, MARCH 7)

FADING HOPES FOR A SINOWATZ VISIT TO WASHINGTON

3. A HOPED-FOR WASHINGTON VISIT OF CHANCELLOR FRED SINOWATZ IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN NOT TO MATERIALIZE THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF A REPORTED LACK OF US INTEREST. THE AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR IS FACED WITH THE UNPLEASANT PROSPECT OF A SECOND VISIT TO MOSCOW WHILE IN OFFICE WITHOUT A COUNTERBALANCING US VISIT. SINOWATZ WILL ACCOMPANY ECONOMIC CHAMBER PRESIDENT RUDOLF SALLINGER TO AN AUSTRIAN INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION IN THE SOVIET CAPITAL IN APRIL. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, MARCH 1U)

SYRIAN VISITOR

4. AFTER HIS MEETING WITH VISITING SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAROUK SHARA MARCH 7, AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LEOPOLD GRATZ DISCLOSED THAT BASIC AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. INTERIOR MINISTER KARL BLECHA ATTENDED PART OF THE MEETING. GRATZ ALSO POINTED TO AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF SHARA ON BEHALF OF HIS GOVERNMENT UNDERLINING THE "UNAMBIGUOUS REJECTION OF ALL ACTS OF FORCE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE CONFLICT AREA." GRATZ FURTHER ASSERTED HE BELIEVED THAT SYRIA IS INTERESTED IN COOPERATING IN A PEACE ARRANGEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IN A VIENNA PRESS CONFERENCE, SHARA SAID SYRIA IS DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN TERRORISM AGAINST INNOCENT PERSONS AND LEGITIMATE NATIONAL

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RESISTANCE. HE CATEGORICALLY DENIED SYRIA SUPPORTED ANY TERRORIST GROUPS. IN AN INTERVIEW, AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTER BLECHA TOOK A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE TOWARDS SYRIA'S PROFESSED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE.

(SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, MARCH 8)

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 03682

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PLO MEETING WITH GRATZ POSTPONED

5. THE VIENNA VISIT OF PLO "FOREIGN MINISTER" FAROUK KADDOUMI SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 10 WAS INDEFINITELY POSTPONED BECAUSE FOREIGN MINISTER GRATZ WOULD NOT BE BACK IN VIENNA IN TIME AFTER ATTENDING THE INAUGURATION OF PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT MARIO SOARES IN LISBON ON MARCH 9. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MARCH 8) ---
BRIEFING JOURNALISTS ON AUSTRIAN FOREIGN POLICY MARCH 6, GRATZ SAID THERE HAVE BEEN NO BASIC CHANGES, BUT ONLY CERTAIN SHIFTS IN EMPHASIS. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, INDEPENDENT KURIER, MARCH 8)

WALDHEIM'S PAST

6. IN THE TV PRESS HOUR OF MARCH 9, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE **KURT WALDHEIM** STRONGLY REJECTED AGAIN THE CHARGES RAISED AGAINST HIM ON HIS ALLEGED NAZI PAST AND WARTIME ACTIVITIES. WALDHEIM SPOKE OF A "CAMPAIGN UNPRECEDENTED IN THE SECOND REPUBLIC." HE CLAIMED THAT FOREIGN MEDIA COVERAGE WAS STEERED FROM AUSTRIA. WALDHEIM ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PLAY A MORE ACTIVE POLITICAL ROLE IF ELECTED. THIS COMMENT PROMPTED SPO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN HEINZ FISCHER TO WARN OF POSSIBLE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE GOVERNMENT. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, SOCIALIST AZ, MARCH 10) --- OVP SECRETARY GENERAL MICHAEL GRAFF SAID "SPO MUDSLINGERS" HAD LAUNCHED THE "SLANDER CAMPAIGN" AGAINST WALDHEIM, WHILE SPO CENTRAL SECRETARY PETER SCHIEDER, IN TURN, ACCUSED GRAFF OF "POISONING THE ATMOSPHERE." GRAFF ALSO PUBLISHED POLL RESULTS SUGGESTING THAT WALDHEIM HAS BENEFITTED FROM LAST WEEK'S DEVELOPMENTS. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, SOCIALIST AZ, ET AL., MARCH 8). BLOCH
END OF MESSAGE

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