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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU, PARM, IT, AG, GC, NU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.54/86, FOR 03/21/86

AUSTRIA'S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT PUBLICIZED: SDI REJECTED

1. FOREIGN MINISTER LEOPOLD GRATZ PRESENTED THE 1985 FOREIGN POLICY REPORT TO THE PUBLIC MARCH 20. AN EARLY PRESS REVIEW OF THE REPORT DESCRIBES IT AS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE SUMMATION OF AUSTRIAN FOREIGN POLICY EVER. THE 700-PAGE BOOK REJECTS "IN SURPRISINGLY CLEAR TERMS"

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THE AMERICAN SDI PROGRAM AND EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR THE SOVIET TEST BAN PROPOSALS. THE DEPLOYMENT OF SDI IS SEEN AS LEADING TO A FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE ARMS RACE. REGARDING OTHER TOPICS, THE REPORT CRITICALLY NOTES THE DRASTIC CURTAILMENT OF BASIC FREEDOMS IN NICARAGUA. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, MARCH 21)

ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN VIENNA

2. ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AHMED TALEB IBRAHIMI ARRIVED FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT IN VIENNA MARCH 20. HE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LEOPOLD GRATZ AND WILL ALSO CALL ON CHANCELLOR FRED SINOWATZ AND PARLIAMENTARY PRESIDENT ANTON BENYA. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, ET. AL., MARCH 21)

AUSTRIAN-GDR RELATIONS

3. WHILE IN LEIPZIG FOR THE TRADE FAIR, STATE SECRETARY ERICH SCHMIDT OF THE AUSTRIAN TRADE MINISTRY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR THE DELIVERY OF 75,000 TONS OF BARLEY AND THE SAME AMOUNT OF OATS TO THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, SOCIALIST AZ, MARCH 21)

AUSTRIAN FUGITIVE ARRESTED IN NEW YORK: VIENNA SEEKS EXTRADITION

4. THE WORLDWIDE POLICE SEARCH FOR, BELA RABELBAUER, AN AUSTRIAN BUSINESSMAN SUSPECTED OF FRAUD, BRIBERY OF A PUBLIC OFFICIAL AND FISCAL OFFENSES, ENDED IN NEW YORK MARCH 19 WITH HIS ARREST. A FORMAL EXTRADITION REQUEST WAS FILED BY THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. THE AUSTRIAN JUSTICE MINISTRY REPORTEDLY FEARS COMPLICATIONS BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES IN THE AUSTRIAN AND AMERICAN JUDICIARY SYSTEMS WHICH COULD YET PROVIDE A LOOPHOLE FOR RABELBAUER TO ESCAPE TRIAL IN AUSTRIA. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, SOCIALIST AZ, MARCH 21)

SOUTH TYROL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS

5. THE SOUTH TYROL PEOPLE'S PARTY IS REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO BLOCK PUBLIC AND MEDIA ACCESS TO ITS UPCOMING CONGRESS IN MERAN ON APRIL 12. PURPOSE OF THE MOVE WOULD BE TO PREVENT MISINTERPRETATION OF POSSIBLY HARSH STATEMENTS BY CONGRESS DELEGATES. PARTY CHAIRMAN SILVIUS MAGNAGO IS EXPECTED TO COME UNDER FIRE BY PARTY HARDLINERS BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT STANDSTILL IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADDITIONAL AUTONOMY REGULATIONS BY THE ROMAN

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AUTHORITIES. (INDEPENDENT TIROLER TAGESZEITUNG, MARCH 20)

PARTY LEADERS MEETING FAILS

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6. CHAIRMAN FRED SINOWATZ OF THE SPO AND CHAIRMAN ALOIS MOCK OF THE OVP MET PRIVATELY FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR ON MARCH 20 IN AN EFFORT TO COOL DOWN THE HEATED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. PRESS REPORTS POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE MEETING ENDED WITHOUT ANY POSITIVE RESULTS. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, ET AL., MARCH 21)

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

7. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE **KURT WALDHEIM** HAS NOW PERMITTED A LOOK AT HIS PERSONNEL FILE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE FILE INCLUDES A PERSONALLY SIGNED QUESTIONNAIRE OF NOVEMBER 1945, LISTING HIS MEMBERSHIP IN A SO-CALLED NATIONAL-SOCIALIST HORSE-RIDING CORPS. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, ET AL., MARCH 21) --- ENVIRONMENTALIST FREDA MEISSNER-BLAU COMPLAINED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ABOUT BUREAUCRATIC CHICANERY HAMPERING HER IN THE COLLECTION OF THE 6,000 PETITION SIGNATURES NECESSARY FOR HER CANDIDACY. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, INDEPENDENT KURIER, ET AL., MARCH 21). BLOCH
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