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TEXT
TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU, PTER, YO, CZ, GR, HU, LY
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.57/86, FOR 03/26/86

AUSTRIAN-YUGOSLAV REACTION TO LIBYAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. DURING A MEETING BETWEEN AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
LEOPOLD GRATZ WITH YUGOSLAV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
BUDIMIR LONCAR IN VIENNA MARCH 25, BOTH WERE AGREED IN
THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE U.S.-LIBYAN CONFRONTATION IN THE

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BAY OF SIDRA. BOTH EXPRESSED THEIR "DEEP CONCERN" OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND OVER ITS POSSIBLE IMPACT ON SECURITY IN EUROPE. (SOCIALIST AZ, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MARCH 26)

YUGOSLAV DELEGATION'S TALKS IN AUSTRIA

2. YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTER MILKA PLANINC AND HER ENTOURAGE CONCLUDED THEIR OFFICIAL VISIT TO AUSTRIA MARCH 25 WITH A COURTESY CALL ON AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT RUDOLF KIRCHSCHLAEGER. IN THE MORNING, YUGOSLAV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BUDIMIR LONCAR HAD A TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION WITH AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LEOPOLD GRATZ ON BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. BOTH ALSO DISCUSSED THE CSCE PROCESS WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON AUSTRIAN-YUGOSLAV COOPERATION IN THE NEUTRAL AND NONALIGNED NATIONS GROUP. IT IS CONSIDERED LIKELY THAT GRATZ WILL PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BELGRADE SOMETIME BEFORE THIS SUMMER. IN DINNER TOASTS IN THE PREVIOUS EVENING, PLANINC AND AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR FRED SINOWATZ STRESSED AUSTRIAN-YUGOSLAV COOPERATION. SINOWATZ REFERRED TO THE POSITIVE ROLE OF THE SLOVENE AND CROAT MINORITIES FOR AUSTRIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS WHILE PLANINC WELCOMED AUSTRIAN READINESS FOR A DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE MINORITIES. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, ET AL., MARCH 26) --- THE MOOD OF AUSTRIAN SLOVENE AND CROAT MINORITY SPOKESMEN WAS REPORTEDLY SUBDUED BECAUSE THE MEETING WITH PLANINC HAD CONFIRMED EARLIER EXPECTATIONS OF MODERATION ON THE PART OF THE YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTER. (IND. DIE PRESSE, MARCH 26)

CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS BLAME "REACTIONARY CIRCLES" FOR IMPAIRING RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA

3. GUSTAV HUSAK'S REPORT TO THIS WEEK'S CONGRESS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST PARTY INCLUDED A CHAPTER ON RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA IN WHICH "AUSTRIAN REACTIONARY CIRCLES" WERE BLAMED FOR TRYING TO IMPAIR THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS BY UNLEASHING ANTI-CZECHOSLOVAK CAMPAIGNS. WHEN ASKED BY A JOURNALIST TO EXPLAIN THIS STATEMENT, CSSR FOREIGN MINISTER BOHUSLAV CHNOUPEK ASSERTED THAT CERTAIN QUARTERS IN AUSTRIA CANNOT EVEN TOLERATE THE EXISTENCE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HAVE TRIED TO DAMAGE BILATERAL RELATIONS. CHNOUPEK SINGLED OUT ESPECIALLY THE AUSTRIAN MEDIA FOR CRITICISM. (COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME, IND. DIE PRESSE, MARCH 26)

AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS' VISITS

4. AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTER KARL BLECHA IS PAYING A TWO-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO ATHENS MARCH 25-26. PRIME TOPICS OF THE TALKS WITH HIS GREEK COUNTERPART WILL BE

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THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM AND THE ILLEGAL NARCOTICS
TRADE. --- AN AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION HEADED BY
PARLIAMENTARY PRESIDENT ANTON BENYA IS OFFICIALLY
VISITING HUNGARY THIS WEEK. (BOTH IN SEMI-OFFICIAL
WIENER ZEITUNG, MARCH 26)

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WALDHEIM ISSUE

5. IN A NEW YORK PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 25, THE WORLD
JEWISH CONGRESS PUBLISHED ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS
PURPORTEDLY SHOWING **KURT WALDHEIM'S** ROLE AS A
COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN THE BALKANS WHO ACTIVELY
PARTICIPATED IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST YUGOSLAV
PARTISANS. WALDHEIM REJECTED THE CHARGES, BUT
CONFIRMED HIS PRESENCE IN THE REGION AND DID NOT EXCLUDE
THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS PRESENCE DURING INTERROGATIONS OF
PRISONERS. MEANWHILE THE VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY ISSUED A
STATEMENT WARNING AGAINST AN ESCALATION OF EMOTIONS AND
REJECTED CHARACTERIZATIONS OF THE PUBLICATION OF WALDHEIM
DOCUMENTS AS DEFAMATORY AGITATION. SIMON WIESENTHAL WAS
SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE WJC REVELATIONS. OVP SECRETARY
GENERAL MICHAEL GRAFF DISCLOSED POLL RESULTS, SHOWING
89 OF THOSE QUERIED AS OPPOSING OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE AND
69 BELIEVING THAT THE WJC WANTS TO HURT WALDHEIM'S
ELECTION CHANCES. (SEMIOFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, IND.
KRONEN-ZEITUNG, IND. DIE PRESSE, SOCIALIST AZ,
MARCH 26). BLOCH
END OF MESSAGE

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