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**EXDIS** 

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TEXT

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, AU, US

SUBJECT: WALDHEIM CASE: THE PEOPLE'S PARTY AND THE US

REF: (A) VIENNA 5570, (B) VIENNA 4797

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (OEVP) CHAIRMAN ALOIS MOCK CALLED ON CHARGE LATE ON APRIL 13TH. NOTING HIS CALL WAS AN OFFICIAL ONE, MOCK SAID HE RECENTLY HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SOME INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRAT UNION COLLEAGUES IN THE U.S. FROM THEM HE HAD LEARNED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAD CONSIDERED PLACING KURT WALDHEIM, INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENCY SUPPORTED BY THE OEVP, ON ITS "WATCH LIST." MOCK SAID SUCH AN ACTION, OR A SIMILAR ONE, WOULD ELICIT A STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION FROM HIM AND HIS PARTY. BECAUSE THEY CONSIDER THE ALLEGATIONS AS TO WAR CRIMES AND NAZI MEMBERSHIP AGAINST DR. WALDHEIM TO BE WITHOUT FOUNDATION, SUCH A U.S.G. ACTION WOULD BE VIEWED BY HIS PARTY AS MEDDLING IN AUSTRIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. AS SUCH, IT WOULD BE VIGOROUSLY DENOUNCED. MOCK SAID HE REGRETTED

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HAVING TO THREATEN SUCH A STEP BUT HE WANTED US TO BE ON NOTICE. BEING PRO-AMERICAN HIMSELF AND LEADING A PRO-AMERICAN PARTY, HE WOULD DISLIKE HAVING TO MAKE SUCH A PUBLIC STATEMENT. HE WOULD HAVE NO RECOURSE, HOWEVER, AND CONCLUDED BY DEPLORING THE NASTINESS OF THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND THE WAY IT HAD BECOME INTERNATIONALIZED, LEADING INTER ALIA TO COMMINGLED ANTI-AMERICAN AND ANTI-SEMITIC SENTIMENTS.

- 3. CHARGE TOLD MOCK HIS POSITION WOULD BE REPORTED TO WASHINGTON. CHARGE OBSERVED WE WERE WELL AWARE, BOTH IN VIENNA AND WASHINGTON, WITH THE IMPLICATIONS OF REAL OR PERCEIVED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE WALDHEIM CASE. CHARGE ASSURED MOCK WE WERE PRECEDING VERY CAREFULLY SO AS NOT TO BE INTRUSIVE INTO AUSTRIAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS. THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAD LAST WEEK REQUESTED THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST THE UN SECRETARIAT FOR ACCESS TO WALDHEIM'S WAR CRIMES COMMISSION FILE. SUCH A REQUEST IN NO WAY PREJUDGED THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST WALDHEIM; THE JUSTICE INVESTIGATION IS BEING PERFORMED TO SATISFY STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS PERTAINING TO OUR IMMIGRATION LAWS. CHARGE NOTED THAT INDIVIDUALS CONNECTED WITH NAZI PERSECUTION COULD BE BARRED FROM ENTRY INTO THE U.S. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHEN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WOULD CONCLUDE ITS INVESTIGATION OR WHAT ITS FINDINGS WOULD BE. CHARGE CONCLUDED THIS PART OF THE CONVERSATION BY STRESSING THAT WALDHEIM HAD NOT RPT HAD NOT BEEN PLACED ON ANY "WATCH LIST" BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AS FAR AS HE WAS INFORMED.
- CHARGE ASKED MOCK FOR HIS VIEW ON HOW PRESIDENT KIRCHSCHLAEGER WILL HANDLE THE WALDHEIM DOCUMENTS HE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE UN AND THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS. INDICATED HE HAS RECENTLY SPOKEN WITH KIRCHSCHLAEGER SEVERAL TIMES BUT HONESTLY DOES NOT KNOW PRECISELY HOW KIRCHSCHLAEGER WILL RENDER JUDGMENT OR WHAT THE JUDGMENT WILL BE. KIRCHSCHLAEGER AT ONE POINT REPORTEDLY MADE THE CRYPTIC COMMENT "MY VIEW OF DR. WALDHEIM IS WELL KNOWN" BUT MOCK DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO INTERPRET THIS. IN ANY EVENT, MOCK IS EXPECTING KIRCHSCHLAEGER TO TAKE A POSITION ON WALDHEIM DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 14TH. HE FEELS WALDHEIM COULD INVITE THE CHAIRMAN OF ALL THREE PARTIES REPRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT (MOCK, CHANCELLOR SINOWATZ FOR THE SOCIALISTS, AND VICE CHANCELLOR STEGER FOR THE "LIBERALS") TO SHARE HIS FINDINGS WITH THEM, COOPTING THEM INTO SUPPORTING HIS CONCLUSIONS AND SEEKING TO PUT THE WALDHEIM ISSUE TO REST, AT LEAST IN AUSTRIA. MOCK ASSERTED THAT FOR TWO WEEKS NOW, THE SOCIALISTS WERE QUESTIONING ONLY WALDHEIM'S INTEGRITY; NO ONE IN AUSTRIA ASSERTED HE WAS A NAZI OR WAS ASSOCIATED WITH CRIMINAL ACTS.
- 5. MOCK WAS CAUTIOUS AS TO THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION.
  THE LAST POLL (NOW A WEEK OLD) SHOWED WALDHEIM SEVERAL
  POINTS AHEAD OF STEYRER BUT THE NUMBER OF UNDECIDED VOTERS
  APPEARS TO BE ON THE UPSWING. A FIRST BALLET VOTE FOR
  WALDHEIM COULD, THEREFORE, BE OUT OF REACH ON MAY 4TH.

## CONFIDENTIAL EXDIS

MOCK BELIEVED IT POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT WALDHEIM COULD GAIN STRENGTH IN THE MONTH LEADING UP TO A RUN-OFF RACE AS THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM ARE SHOWN TO BE WITHOUT VALIDITY.

6. COMMENT: MOCK'S THREAT TO TAKE OFF AFTER THE U.S. IF WE SHOULD "INTERFERE" IN THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN DID NOT COME EASILY TO THIS BALANCED AND CAUTIOUS CAREER DIPLOMAT TURNED POLITICIAN. HIS PERSPECTIVE AND THAT OF MANY AUSTRIANS IS NOW INFLUENCED BY A "CIRCLED WAGON MENTALITY." THIS PERHAPS NASTIEST C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 05635

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OF ALL AUSTRIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS HAS OPENED WOUNDS AND AROUSED RESENTMENTS AND SENTIMENTS LONG THOUGHT HEALED. MOCK AVERRED HE AND OTHERS IN THE OEVP ACTIVE IN THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRAT UNIONS WERE BEING VIEWED WITH SUSPICION AS NAZI SYMPATHIZERS, IF NOT AS CLOSET NAZIS, BY OTHERS IN EDU AND IDU MEMBER PARTIES BECAUSE OF THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH/SUPPORT FOR WALDHEIM. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND WITH THEIR POLITICAL FORTUNES AT STAKE, WE CANNOT EXPECT RATIONAL AND CONSIDERED ACTIONS, EVEN FROM SUCH REAL FRIENDS OF THE U.S. AS IS MOCK. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE CIRCUMSPECT APPROACH TO THE USG'S HANDLING OF THE CHARGES AGAINST WALDHEIM WE RECOMMENDED IN REF A IS EVEN MORE RELEVANT. BLOCH END OF MESSAGE