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DOCUMENT_ID: 23301509
INQNO: DOC2D 00799396
DOCNO: TEL 006798 86 004
PRODUCER: TELAVIV
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: OTHER
DOR: 19860506
TOR: 074704
DOCPREC: 0
ORIGDATE: 198605061050
MHFNO: 86 0784889
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER
OO RUEAIIA
DE RUEHTV #6798/04 1261104
ZNR UUUUU
O 061050Z MAY 86
FM USIS TELAVIV
TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEADWW/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
RUEHMA/AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH IMMEDIATE
RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
RUEHMY/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW SU IMMEDIATE
RUFHTH/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
BT

CONTROLS
UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 TELAVIV 06798

STATE FOR NEA; INR, SP, PM; FOR P/RC, P/F, P/P,
P/FW, P/FN, P/M, HA.
NEA; ROME AND JERUSALEM FOR VOA; VOA NEWS/CA.
VOA FOR MORT SMITH; BIB FOR WALTER ROBERTS.
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE FOR DCM HUGHES. AMEMBASSY ROME FOR
MFO. JERUSALEM FOR ICD GREEN.
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN FOR POLAD AMB. LANE AND PAO.
MACDILL FOR USIA ADVISER BRIAN BELL.

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STATE FOR NEA/IAI WILCOX, NEA/P AUSTRIAN.

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION/PRESS REVIEW, MAY 6, 1986

RECONSIDER THEIR RELATIONS WITH VIENNA."

III.

VPARIV CORRESPONDENTS RAPHAEL MANN AND YOSEF ZURIEL REPORTED: "POLITICAL SOURCES SAID THAT ISRAEL'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, WHO IS TO BE APPOINTED THIS SUMMER, WILL NOT PRESENT HIS LETTERS OF ACCREDITATION TO **KURT WALDHEIM**, IF HE IS ELECTED PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMIR'S STATEMENT IN NEW YORK, THAT IF WALDHEIM IS ELECTED, ISRAEL WILL DRAW THE NECESSARY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT ITS RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA. THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT SHAMIR SHOULD HAVE ADHERED TO THE WAIT-AND-SEE POSITION ISRAEL DECIDED TO TAKE FOR THE DURATION OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN."

IV. HA'ARETZ EDITORIAL SAID: "THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR UNDERSCORES THE FICTION THAT AUSTRIA WAS 'OCCUPIED BY THE NAZIS'. IT ALSO ILLUSTRATES WHAT HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME: THAT MOST AUSTRIANS ENTHUSIASTICALLY ACCEPTED GERMAN RULE AS 'A RETURN TO THE HOMELAND'. THAT FALSE VIEW (OF 'OCCUPATION') SPARED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AUSTRIANS THE DUTY OF ACCOUNTING FOR THEIR WARTIME ACTIONS AND IMMEDIATELY MADE THEM PART OF THE NEW, POST-WAR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. THE AFFAIR ALSO SHOWS HOW EASILY ANTI-SEMITISM SURFACES IN AUSTRIA, WHICH UNLIKE WEST GERMANY HAS DONE VERY LITTLE, IF ANYTHING, TO UPROOT THAT RACIAL DISEASE THE QUESTION IS, OF COURSE, WHERE WERE ALL THE ANTI-NAZI FIGHTERS, ALL THE COUNTRIES WHICH FOUGHT AGAINST HITLER AND THEIR INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS - INCLUDING THE ISRAELI MOSSAD, WHEN WALDHEIM WAS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE U.N.? HOW COME NO ONE BOTHERED TO CHECK ON HIS PAST? ANOTHER QUESTION IS WHETHER IT WAS WISE FOR THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS TO START ITS CAMPAIGN RIGHT NOW."

V. DAVAR COLUMNIST YITZHAK BEN NER WROTE: "IF WALDHEIM IS ELECTED, A CHOICE WHICH WILL PORTRAY HIS COUNTRYMEN'S DEPLORABLE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL STATE . . . AUSTRIA SHOULD BE MADE TO PAY VERY DEARLY. IF ISRAEL WISHES TO MAINTAIN WHAT IS LEFT OF ITS MORAL VALUES AND SELF-RESPECT, IT OUGHT TO SEVER ITS TIES WITH THAT COUNTRY AND CALL ON OTHER NATIONS TO DO THE SAME. . . . JERUSALEM MUST IMPOSE A CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC BOYCOTT ON THE COUNTRY WHICH IS TRYING TO MAKE THE BLOOD STAINS ON ITS FACE AND HANDS PASS FOR BEAUTY SPOTS."

VI. HADASHOT EDITORIAL SAID: "ON THE EVE OF ISRAEL'S HOLOCAUST AND HEROISM REMEMBRANCE DAY (MAY 6), THE AUSTRIAN CITIZENS MADE A DECISION CONCERNING THEIR COUNTRY'S MORAL FABRIC. 49.6 PERCENT OF THE VOTES ARE ENOUGH TO PROVE THAT A NAZI PAST IS NO STIGMA IN

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AUSTRIA SOME OF YITZHAK SHAMIR'S STATEMENTS IN NEW
YORK MIGHT BE IN DISPUTE, BUT HE WAS RIGHT IN SAYING
THAT 'WE HAVE NO WISH TO INTERFERE WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES' AFFAIRS, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO A NAZI
PRESIDENT, WE CAN'T REMAIN INDIFFERENT.'"
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Page 3