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TEXT
TAGS: SHUM, AU, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAELI LEADERS COMMENT ON WALDHEIM CASE

REFS: TEL AVIV 5505

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ISRAEL RADIO JUSTICE MINISTER YITZHAK MODA'I HAS SAID THAT "THERE IS A BASIS FOR PUTTING **KURT WALDHEIM** ON TRIAL, IF HE WERE IN ISRAEL, FOR INVOLVEMENT IN WAR CRIMES." MODA'I WENT ON TO SAY THAT WALDHEIM IS GUILTY OF "LENDING ASSISTANCE TO THE KILLING OF CIVILIANS AS HE WOULD PASS ON INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTIONS THAT HE KNEW BY VIRTUE OF STANDING ORDERS IN THE NAZI ARMY - WOULD, AND DID LEAD TO LIQUIDATION ACTION." ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, MODA'I SPOKE AFTER RECEIVING AN INTERIM REPORT FROM THE MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT WHICH ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT WALDHEIM COULD

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
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 EO 12958, 25X _____ Date: 8/30/01
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 SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2001 2007

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE AC
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BE PROSECUTED UNDER THE NAZI AND NAZI COLLABORATORS
(PUNISHMENT) LAW.

3. JUSTICE MINISTRY SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT NO SUCH REPORT HAS BEEN PREPARED. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT DID RECENTLY GIVE MODA'I A SHORT REPORT THAT MERELY STATED THAT THEIR INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING AND THAT NO CONCLUSION HAS YET BEEN REACHED. THESE SOURCES SAID THAT THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT IS "UPSET" OVER MODA'I'S STATEMENT, WHICH, THEY SAID REPRESENT A "POLITICAL RATHER THAN A LEGAL JUDGEMENT."

4. PRIME MINISTER PERES AND PRESIDENT HERZOG HAVE ISSUED MORE RESTRAINED STATEMENTS. PERES TOLD A GROUP OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THAT WHILE WALDHEIM'S ANSWERS HAVE SO FAR BEEN "EVASIVE AND UNSATISFACTORY" NO CONCLUSION CAN YET BE REACHED. PRESIDENT HERZOG TOLD ISRAEL RADIO THAT HE WILL NOT "LEND A HAND TO INTERVENTION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN ANOTHER COUNTRY." HE ALSO CALLED ON THE GREEK AND YUGOSLAVIAN GOVERNMENTS TO COOPERATE WITH THE INVESTIGATION. PICKERING
END OF MESSAGE

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