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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU, IAEA, UR, FR, IS, GC, IC, MARR
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.103/86, FOR 06/06/86

WALDHEIM AFFAIR

1. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS APPARENTLY STARTED

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2000

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INVESTIGATING DOCUMENTS FROM ALLIED ARCHIVES IN BERLIN WHICH CONCERN WALDHEIM'S WARTIME ACTIVITIES. AUSTRIAN PRESS OF TODAY QUOTES THE FRENCH DAILY "LE MONDE" WHICH FEARS AUSTRIA'S RELATIONS TO THE EAST WILL CONSOLIDATE AT THE COST OF RELATIONS TO THE WEST IN THE EVENT OF A WALDHEIM VICTORY. "LE MONDE" CALLS WALDHEIM A "CUNNING LIAR" AND NOTES THE "EMBARRASSED SILENCE BY BOTH SUPERPOWERS" IN THE AFFAIR. IN A COMMUNIQUE, THE ISRAELI CULTURAL COMMUNITY OF VIENNA EXPRESSED ITS "OUTRAGE AND EMBITTERMENT" ABOUT THE STYLE OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN WHICH "ANTI-SEMITISM HAS BEEN USED AS A VEHICLE TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL ENDS". THE VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY ACCEPTS THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION BUT WILL NOT EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS TO EITHER VICTOR, THE PAPER STATES. (MOST PAPERS, E.G. SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, SOCIALIST AZ, JUNE 6)

ELECTION STATEMENTS

2. OVP POLITICIANS USED FINAL ELECTION RALLIES FOR **KURT WALDHEIM** TO PROMOTE THE ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN VALUES, PATRIOTISM, AUSTRIAN SELF-CONFIDENCE AND SOLIDARITY WITH WALDHEIM'S BID FOR THE PRESIDENCY. IN A JUNE 5 RALLY, WHICH WAS TEMPORARILY DISRUPTED BY ANTI-WALDHEIM PROTESTS, THE OVP SUPPORTED CANDIDATE STRESSED THAT ALL ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM HAVE BEEN UNMASKED AS LIES. HE HAD "EXPERIENCED THE TRAGIC WAR AS AN UPRIGHT SOLDIER", THE FORMER UN SECRETARY-GENERAL STATED. SPO CANDIDATE KURT STEYRER, EMPHASIZING HIS COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, JOB PRESERVATION AND HIS OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR POWER, EXPRESSED SHOCK OVER AUSTRIA'S DAMAGED IMAGE ABROAD. A RECENT POLL SHOWS WALDHEIM LEADING WITH 52-53 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS IN HIS FAVOR. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, SOCIALIST AZ, INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, ORF NEWS, JUNE 6)

GORBACHEV LETTER TO AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT

3. ON JUNE 4 AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT RUDOLF KIRCHSCHLAEGER RECEIVED A LETTER FROM SOVIET LEADER MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, REPORTEDLY ALSO SENT TO SEVERAL OTHER HEADS OF STATE, WHICH STRESSES THE NECESSITY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO INCREASE THE SAFETY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. THE VIENNA-BASED IAEA IS SEEN AS THE PROPER ORGANIZATION TO COORDINATE RELEVANT MEASURES. IN THE SAME NOTE, GORBACHEV APPEALED FOR ELIMINATION OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, JUNE 6)

FM GRATZ MEETS WITH NORWEGIAN FM

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4. IN A WORKING MEETING WITH HIS NORWEGIAN OPPOSITE NUMBER, AUSTRIAN FM LEOPOLD GRATZ CALLED FOR JOINT STRATEGIES BY EFTA NATIONS TOWARDS THE EC. ASPECTS OF DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. BOTH SIDES UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 08313

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UNDERScoreD EACH COUNTRY'S IMPORTANT GEOPOLITICAL POSITION. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUN, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, JUNE 6)

AUSTRIA NOT INTERESTED IN SDI PROGRAM

5. DURING A VISIT TO HUNGARY, AUSTRIAN MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND RESEARCH, HEINZ FISCHER, STATED THAT AUSTRIA WAS NOT INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE SDI PROGRAM. LIKE OTHER NEUTRAL NATIONS, HOWEVER, AUSTRIA WILL TAKE PART IN EUROPE'S "EUREKA" PROJECTS, THE MINISTER SAID. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, JUNE 6)

AUSTRIAN-GDR AGREEMENT ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

6. ON JUNE 4 AUSTRIA AND EAST GERMANY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON BILATERAL COOPERATION IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AREAS DURING THE NEXT 2 YEARS. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, JUNE 6)

NEW AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO ICELAND

7. THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK, GERHARD GMOSE, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT OF ICELAND JUNE 2. GMOSE THEREBY WAS CO-ACCREDITED AS AMBASSADOR TO ICELAND. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, JUNE 6). BLOCH
END OF MESSAGE

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AUSTRIA: Waldheim Elected

Kurt Waldheim won 53.9 percent of the votes cast in the second round of Austria's presidential election yesterday. His Socialist opponent, Kurt Steyrer, captured only 46.1 percent. Turnout was a relatively low 87.25 percent of the registered voters. Waldheim will be Austria's first non-Socialist president since World War II.

Comment: Waldheim's victory was a convincing one by Austrian standards, and many in the conservative People's Party will portray the result as a shift in voter sentiment. Indeed, the high rate of abstentions probably reflects not only general discontent with the bitter electoral campaign but also antipathy among traditional Socialist supporters over the state of their party. Nevertheless, Chancellor Sinowatz—a Socialist—has denied rumors that he will resign or call early elections. The new round of accusations against Waldheim that surfaced over the weekend suggests that the debate over his past will continue, burdening particularly relations with the US and Israel.

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- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
- (2)(A) Privacy
 - (2)(B) Methods/Sources
 - (2)(G) Foreign Relations

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