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TEXT  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WALDHEIM ELECTED AUSTRIAN  
PRESIDENT

SWISS COMMENT ON **KURT WALDHEIM'S** ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF  
AUSTRIA INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

TRIBUNE DE GENEVE (INDEPENDENT): WE KNEW HE WAS AN  
OPPORTUNIST; NOW WE KNOW HE IS A LIAR. FOR HE KNOWINGLY  
CONCEALED HIS SERVICE ON THE BALKAN FRONT FOR FEAR OF  
COMPROMISING HIS CAREER, ESPECIALLY HIS ELECTION AS UN  
SECRETARY-GENERAL. THIS IS THE MAN WHO NOW PRESIDES  
OVER, NOT SOME BANANA REPUBLIC BUT ONE OF THE CENTERS OF  
EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION.

DER BUND, BERN (MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD): IN 1974 WILLY  
BRANDT RESIGNED AS WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR OVER THE

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GUILLAUME SPY AFFAIR, BECAUSE HE FEARED FOR THE GOOD NAME OF HIS COUNTRY IF HE STAYED. **KURT WALDHEIM**, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS HIMSELF ELECTED PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIA, THOUGH HE MUST KNOW THAT HE CANNOT REPRESENT HIS COUNTRY WITH CLEAN HANDS--NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT HE MAY BE REFUSED ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES.

CORRIERE DEL TICINO, LUGANO (INDEPENDENT): THE VOTE SHOWS, FIRST, AUSTRIANS' DETERMINATION TO FREELY CHOOSE THEIR PRESIDENT WITHOUT YIELDING TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE. SECOND, IT INDICATES A TURNING POINT IN AUSTRIAN POLITICS--THE END OF A LONG PERIOD OF SOCIALIST DOMINATION. LASTLY, THE ELECTION DIRECTLY AFFECTS AUSTRIA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE, AND MAY HAVE SOME DISAGREEABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE LITTLE REPUBLIC.

LE MATIN, LAUSANNE (MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD): A POLITICIAN CONVICTED OF LYING AND A COUNTRY PARTLY SUFFERING FROM AMNESIA--THAT IS THE COMBINATION THAT HAS PRODUCED **KURT WALDHEIM'S** ELECTION. MR. WALDHEIM, WHO WANTS TO REUNITE HIS COUNTRYMEN, WILL INSTEAD PRESIDE OVER A COUNTRY DEEPLY DIVIDED AND WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION TARNISHED.

24 HEURES, LAUSANNE (INDEPENDENT): RICHARD NIXON AND BRITISH DEFENSE MINISTER JOHN PROFUMO HAD TO RESIGN BECAUSE THEY HAD LIED. WALDHEIM LIED, BUT GOES ON TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIA. HE LIED ABOUT HIS ARMY RECORD. NOW, AN OFFICER WHO FOUGHT FOR HIS COUNTRY HAS NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF--UNLESS, THAT IS, HE HAS COMMITTED WAR CRIMES.

AARGAUER TAGBLATT (LIBERAL TENDENCY): THE CONCLUSIVE RESULT IS DOUBTLESS DUE TO A MOVEMENT OF NATIONAL SOLIDARITY IN REACTION TO THE FOREIGN AND JEWISH CAMPAIGN AGAINST WALDHEIM WHICH, RATHER THAN PREVENTING IT, MADE HIS VICTORY CERTAIN.

LUZERNER NEUSTE NACHRICHTEN (INDEPENDENT): SOME COUNTRIES, NOTABLY THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL, ARE CONSIDERING TAKING DIPLOMATIC ACTION AGAINST AUSTRIA BECAUSE OF WALDHEIM'S ELECTION. ISRAEL WILL PROBABLY RECALL ITS VIENNA AMBASSADOR FOR A WHILE. THE U.S. CONGRESS IS LIKELY TO DISCUSS BARRING ENTRY TO WALDHEIM. YET AUSTRIA HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. SOONER OR LATER, RELATIONS WITH IT ARE BOUND TO BE NORMALIZED AGAIN. (6/9/86) HENZE  
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