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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT
TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU, UR, YO, GR, IS, UN
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.104/86, FOR 06/09/86

ELECTION RESULTS

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1. **KURT WALDHEIM** WAS ELECTED AS AUSTRIA'S NEW PRESIDENT JUNE 8. WALDHEIM DREW AN OVERWHELMING 53.89 PERCENT OF THE VOTES, LEAVING 46.11 PERCENT TO HIS OPPONENT STEYRER. VOTER PARTICIPATION AMOUNTED TO 87.3 PERCENT, WHILE 3.7 PERCENT CAST INVALID BALLOTS. (ORF NEWS, UNCLASSIFIED

JUNE 8,9)

ELECTION STATEMENTS

2. IN A FIRST STATEMENT, WALDHEIM ANNOUNCED HIS DETERMINATION TO "BRIDGE DIVISIONS" AND "RECONCILE" THE POLITICAL PARTIES. AS REASONS FOR HIS SUCCESS WALDHEIM NOTED THE DESIRE OF THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE TO SEE HIS CALL FOR ETHICAL RENEWAL, CHRISTIAN VALUES AND OPPOSITION TO PARTY PATRONAGE PUT INTO REALITY. WALDHEIM SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE FAIRNESS SHOWN TOWARDS HIM BY THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

--- DEFEATED CANDIDATE KURT STEYRER INTERPRETED THE RESULTS AS PRIMARILY A PERSONAL FAILURE. AMONG OTHER REASONS FOR HIS LOSS, STEYRER LISTED ATTACKS BY THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, THE CRISIS OF AUSTRIA'S NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES AND CRITICISM OF HIS ROLE AS FORMER MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

--- CHANCELLOR FRED SINOWATZ SAID HE WOULD NEITHER RESIGN NOR SEEK AN EARLIER DATE FOR THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS (SCHEDULED FOR 1987) BECAUSE OF THE RESULTS. ASKED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF WALDHEIM'S VICTORY ON HIS UPCOMING U.S. VISIT, SINOWATZ SAID HE "WILL ALWAYS DEFEND AUSTRIA'S REPUTATION".

--- OVP LEADER ALOIS MOCK TERMED THE OUTCOME AS A "GREAT PERSONAL VICTORY FOR WALDHEIM" AND A DEMONSTRATION OF AUSTRIA'S SELF-CONFIDENCE". (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, ORF NEWS, JUNE 8,9)

FURTHER ELECTION COMMENTS

3. IN COMMENTARIES OF TODAY'S VIENNA PRESS, THE ELECTION RESULT WAS WIDELY SEEN AS A LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR **KURT WALDHEIM**. COMMENTATORS UNANIMOUSLY INTERPRETED HIS SUCCESS AS A CLEAR DEFEAT FOR AUSTRIA'S SOCIALIST PARTY. BASED ON VOTING ANALYSES WHICH INDICATED THAT "GREEN-ALTERNATIVE" VOTERS HAD PREDOMINANTLY SUPPORTED WALDHEIM, MANY COMMENTATORS CONCLUDED THAT TRADITIONAL VALUES, WHICH WALDHEIM ADVOCATED, WERE POPULAR AGAIN BOTH AMONG THE OLDER AND YOUNGER GENERATIONS. A NUMBER OF EDITORIALISTS DISCUSSED POSSIBLE FOREIGN REACTION TO THE ELECTION OUTCOME, WITH SOME EXPRESSING FEAR THAT CRITICISM OF WALDHEIM WOULD CONTINUE AND OTHERS HOPING IT

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WOULD CEASE. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, INDEPENDENT KURIER, SOCIALIST AZ, INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, JUNE 9)

EARLY REACTION IN THE U.S.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 08358

STATE FOR EUR/CE, INR/WEA AND INR/P
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4. ACCORDING TO A CORRESPONDENT OF THE AUSTRIAN RADIO, U.S. MEDIA REACTION IS HIGHLY CRITICAL, WHILE OFFICIAL REACTION IS NOTABLY RESTRAINED. A U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID WALDHEIM AS PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO ENTER THE U.S. EVEN IF HE IS PUT ON A "WATCH-OUT" LIST. N.Y.C. MAYOR EDWARD KOCH REPORTEDLY CALLED THE DECISION BY THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE "ONE OF THE MOST REPUGNANT ACTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY". (ORF MORNING NEWS, JUNE 9)

ISRAELI REACTION

5. AUSTRIAN PRESS QUOTES ISRAELI PRESIDENT HERZOG AS SAYING ISRAEL SHOULD NOT "OVERREACT" TO WALDHEIM'S ELECTION. AN ISRAELI FM COMMUNIQUE NOTED WALDHEIM'S VICTORY WITH "SADNESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT". DEPUTY FM MODAY STATED IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR ISRAEL TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA. MEANWHILE, THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA HAS BEEN RECALLED TO REPORT ON THE EVENT. (ORF NEWS, JUNE 9)

SOVIET REACTION

6. AUSTRIAN NATIONAL RADIO OF TODAY QUOTED A "TASS" REPORT WHICH PRAISES **KURT WALDHEIM'S** ROLE AS UN SECRETARY-GENERAL AND CRITICIZES "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND ZIONIST CIRCLES" FOR "FLAGRANT INTERFERENCE" INTO THE AUSTRIAN ELECTION PROCESS. (ORF NEWS, JUNE 9).

LAUDER

END OF MESSAGE

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