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TEXT

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WALDHEIM'S ELECTION

SOME SWISS DAILIES RETURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF **KURT WALDHEIM'S** ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIA. COMMENT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

LE MATIN, LAUSANNE (MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD): ON THE MORROW OF WALDHEIM'S ELECTION, REALPOLITIK REASSERTED ITSELF AND ALMOST ALL OVERNMENTS REACTED AS IF THE NEW PRESIDENT'S PAST WAS NO GOOD REASON TO IMPEDE THEIR RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA. AND INDEED, IF RELATIONS AMONG STATES DEPENDED ON A MORAL JUDGMENT ON THEIR GOVERNMENTS, WHERE WOULD WE BE?... THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE USUAL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR HEADS OF STATES WILL BE DIFFICULT IN WALDHEIM'S CASE, WITH DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST HIM LIKELY WHEREVER HE GOES.

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LA SUISSE (INDEPENDENT), GENEVA: WALDHEIM'S ELECTION IS A DIRTY BUSINESS. IT SHOWS THAT EUROPE, WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN REBORN--PURIFIED--BY THE SECOND WORLD WAR, STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO... WITH THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR, OUR PAST COMES BUBBLING TO THE SURFACE LIKE NOXIOUS GAS. AS FOR DEMOCRACY, WHICH WE REGARD AS THE SOVEREIGN REMEDY FOR ALL ILLS, IT HAS TURNED AGAINST ITS PRACTITIONERS IN THIS CASE.

JOURNAL DE GENEVE (CONSERVATIVE): THERE IS SOME EXCUSE FOR THE AUSTRIAN VOTERS. AFTER ALL, BEFORE THE RECENT REVELATIONS ABOUT HIS ARMY PAST IN THE BALKANS, WALDHEIM HAD BEEN TREATED WITH UNIVERSAL RESPECT AND RETAINED FOR A WHOLE DECADE AS SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM WOULD PROBABLY HAVE CAUSED THE SAME DEFENSIVE REFLEX IN ANY COUNTRY AS IT DID IN AUSTRIA. THE FACT REMAINS, THOUGH, THAT HIS ELECTION WAS A MISTAKE. AUSTRIA, AN OUTPOST OF THE WESTERN WORLD, HAS LUMBERED ITSELF WITH A CONSIDERABLE HANDICAP IN CHOOSING THIS PARTICULAR HEAD OF STATE. THE SOVIET BLOC ENJOYS NOTHING SO MUCH AS THE SIGHT OF THE WEST APPEARING TO DENY SOMETHING IT SAYS IT HOLDS DEAREST: LIBERTY.

NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG (CONSERVATIVE TENDENCY) WALDHEIM TRIED TO COVER UP PARTS OF HIS WAR RECORD, AND THIS LACK OF INTEGRITY WILL NOT BE LIGHTLY FORGIVEN HIM. BUT THE AUSTRIAN VOTERS HAVE MADE THEIR CHOICE, AND IT MIGHT BE SAID THAT THEY HAVE GOTTEN THE PRESIDENT THEY DESERVED.
(6/10/86) HENZE
END OF MESSAGE

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