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E.O. 12356:OADR

TEXT
TAGS: PREL, YO, AU, US
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PRESS LIFTS VEIL OVER WALDHEIM FILE

REF: (A) BELGRADE 5050 (NOTAL), (B) BELGRADE 4418
- (C) STATE 163364 AND PREVIOUS

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: THE YUGOSLAV BIWEEKLY MAGAZINE "DUGA" LAST WEEK PUBLISHED A 25-PAGE LONG ARTICLE ON THE KURT WALDHEIM CASE, IN WHICH "DUGA" REVEALED THE ALLEGED CONTENTS OF YUGOSLAV ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS ON WALDHEIM. ACCORDING TO THE MAGAZINE ACCOUNT, THE WALDHEIM DOSSIER CONTAINS THE REPORT OF THE YUGOSLAV STATE COMMISSION ON INVESTIGATION OF WAR CRIMES WHICH DECLARED WALDHEIM A WAR CRIMINAL; REPORTS OF INTERROGATIONS OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR BEARING ON WALDHEIM'S POSITION AND DUTIES; AND LETTERS FROM THE STATE COMMISSION TO YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS REGARDING THE REGISTRATION OF WALDHEIM AS A WAR CRIMINAL WITH THE UNITED NATIONS.)THE "DUGA" PIECE ALSO FEATURES FACSIMILES OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS, MOSTLY GERMAN, RELATING TO WALDHEIM'S WARTIME

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ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

3. THE MAY 31-JUNE 13 GENERAL INTEREST MAGAZINE "DUGA" CARRIES A TWENTY-FIVE PAGE COVER STORY ON **KURT WALDHEIM**, ENTITLED "THE DOSSIER THE WORLD AWAITS: DARK SIDES OF THE BIOGRAPHY OF **KURT WALDHEIM**". MUCH OF THE STORY IS ACTUALLY A REVIEW OF WALDHEIM'S CAREER AT THE UN AND A RECAPITULATION OF THE EVENTS LEADING TO THE DISCOVERY OF HIS WARTIME SERVICE. MORE IMPORTANT, "DUGA" SAYS IT HAS REVEALED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE DETAILED COMMENTS OF DOSSIER F-25572 -- THE FILE ON **KURT WALDHEIM** -- FROM THE ARCHIVES OF YUGOSLAVIA IN BELGRADE. THE EXISTENCE OF THE DOSSIER WAS FIRST REVEALED IN THE YUGOSLAV NEWSPAPER "VEČERNJE NOVOSTI" ON MARCH 26, 1986. SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPTS BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, THE PRESS, AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE FILE HAVE BEEN FUTILE -- "DUGA" DOES NOT SAY HOW IT GOT ACCESS TO THE MATERIAL.

4. ACCORDING TO "DUGA", DOSSIER F-25572 CONTAINS THE WRITTEN DECISION ON WALDHEIM OF THE YUGOSLAV STATE COMMISSION FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF WAR CRIMES. THE RULING, DATED DECEMBER 18, 1947, SAYS WALDHEIM PARTICIPATED IN WAR CRIMES ON YUGOSLAV TERRITORY FROM APRIL, 1944, WHEN HE JOINED THE STAFF OF SECTION I-C, HEADQUARTERS OF MILITARY GROUP "E", "DUGA" SAYS THE STATE COMMISSION'S REPORT RELATES AT LENGTH THE DUTIES OF WALDHEIM'S UNIT, INCLUDING COPIES OF ORDERS IT ISSUED. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, SECTIONS I-A AND I-C OF THE HEADQUARTERS HAD REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISIONS INVOLVING HOSTAGES, REPRISAL MEASURES, TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR, AND TREATMENT OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION. THE COMMISSION'S DECISION HOLDS THAT WALDHEIM'S DUTIES INCLUDED THOSE ISSUES; THE REPORT SAYS IT IS "CERTAIN" WALDHEIM WORKED ON DEVELOPING AND ISSUING THE "CRIMINAL" ORDERS OF MILITARY GROUP "E" WHILE IN YUGOSLAVIA. THE COMMISSION REPORT CITES THE 1947 TESTIMONY OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN YUGOSLAVIA. IT QUOTES JOHANN MEYER, A CLERK IN THE PERSONNEL SECTION OF I-C, WHO SAID WALDHEIM WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTELLIGENCE, ALTHOUGH HE OPERATED UNDER THE COVER OF AIDE TO THE UNIT COMMANDER. MEYER CLAIMED IT WAS WALDHEIM'S DUTY TO ADVISE THE COMMANDER ON HOSTAGES, REPRISALS, PRISONERS AND CIVILIANS. MEYER FURTHER TESTIFIED THAT HEADQUARTERS OF MILITARY GROUP "E" WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE MEASURES AND POLICIES THROUGHOUT THE YUGOSLAV THEATER. MAJOR KLAUS MELINGHOF, A PRISONER WHO HAD BEEN AIDE TO THE COMMANDER OF MILITARY GROUP "E", GENERAL LOHR, TESTIFIED THAT THE HEADQUARTERS OF GROUP "E" HAD SUPREME AUTHORITY FOR REPRISALS, HOSTAGES AND CIVILIANS. MELINGHOF IDENTIFIED WALDHEIM AS THE COMMANDER'S AIDE. A THIRD WITNESS, EGBERTS HILKER KARL HEINZ, THE COMMANDER OF THE 122ND ARMORED DIVISION -- HIMSELF LATER CONVICTED OF WAR CRIMES -- SAID THAT THERE WERE SPECIAL ORDERS FOR YUGOSLAVIA, INCLUDING A POLICY THAT THE GERMANS WOULD

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RESPOND TO ATTACKS ON THEIR UNITS BY ARMED CIVILIANS BY BURNING LOCAL VILLAGES AND KILLING THEIR ADULT MALE INHABITANTS. HE CITED THE KILLING OF 114 VILLAGERS IN MACEDONIA IN OCTOBER 1944 AS AN EXAMPLE OF THAT PRACTICE. THE STATE COMMISSION'S DECISION CONCLUDED: "THE CRIMES OF THE 181ST DIVISION IN MONTENEGRO AND MANY OTHER CRIMES WHICH WERE CARRIED OUT BY MILITARY GROUP "E" IN YUGOSLAVIA, SHOW THAT ORDERS, DETAILED C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 BELGRADE 05337

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WITH THE COOPERATION OF SECTION I-C OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED MILITARY GROUP AND ESPECIALLY WITH THE COOPERATION OF LIEUTENANT WALDHEIM, WERE CARRIED OUT IN PRACTICE, WHICH INCREASED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE WHO PUBLISHED, INTERPRETED, OR RELAYED THEM TO LOWER COMMANDS. ON THE BASIS OF ALL THIS THE STATE COMMISSION DETERMINES LT. **KURT WALDHEIM** TO BE A WAR CRIMINAL RESPONSIBLE FOR WAR CRIMES LISTED AND DESCRIBED ABOVE."

5. ALONG WITH THE STATE COMMISSION'S DECISION, "DUGA" SAYS THAT FILE F-25572 CONTAINS "EVIDENTIARY MATERIAL". UNDER FILE NUMBER 3939/47, DATED DECEMBER 26, 1947, THERE IS A LETTER FROM DUSAN NEDELJKOVIC, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COMMISSION, TO THE SECTION FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE LETTER PUT WALDHEIM ON THE LIST OF NAMES BEING SUBMITTED AS GERMAN WAR CRIMINALS TO THE UNITED NATIONS WAR CRIMES COMMISSION IN LONDON. THE LETTER MENTIONS THE "SERIOUS IMPORTANCE" OF WALDHEIM'S REGISTRATION. THE DOSSIER CONTAINS A SUBSEQUENT LETTER FROM NEDELJKOVIC TO THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY IN LONDON. (THE DATE IS NOT GIVEN.) ALTHOUGH THE LETTER CONCERNS THE REGISTRATION OF SOMEONE ELSE, IT ALSO URGES THE EMBASSY TO PURSUE THE REGISTRATION OF WALDHEIM "FIRST OF ALL" BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE AGAINST WALDHEIM WAS SOLID. FINALLY, THE DOSSIER APPARENTLY HOLDS FILE 1725 FROM THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, SECTION FOR PRISONERS OF WAR. THIS FILE CONTAINS REPORTS ON THE INTERROGATIONS OF GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR WHO HAD BEEN IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF GROUP "E". JOHANN MEYER'S REPORT IS INCLUDED, ALONG WITH THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OTHERS: MARKUS HARNER, AN ENLISTED MAN IN SECTION I-C; AND NCO ROBERT VOIGT, A CLERK IN THE SAME SECTION. VOIGT INDICATED THAT WALDHEIM WORKED IN INTELLIGENCE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE "ENEMY POSITIONS".

6. IN ADDITION TO THE DOSSIER FROM THE ARCHIVES OF YUGOSLAVIA, THE "DUGA" ARTICLE MAKES EXTENSIVE USE OF OTHER RECORDS, PARTICULARLY GERMAN ONES. IT DISPLAYS FACSIMILES OF A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS, AMONG THEM:

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(A) WALDHEIM'S MEMBERSHIP CARD IN THE SA, ISSUED IN VIENNA IN 1938; (B) WALDHEIM'S NAME INCLUDED ON A "KRIEGSRANGLISTE" OF OFFICERS OF MILITARY GROUP "E"; (C) A LISTING OF INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS OF SECTION I-C OF HEADQUARTERS OF MILITARY GROUP "E", INCLUDING WALDHEIM'S NAME, AND, ALLEGEDLY, THE NOTATIONS ALONGSIDE (THE COPY IS TOO SMALL AND DARK TO MAKE OUT IN "DUGA") "SPECIAL DUTIES" AND "INTERROGATION OF PRISONERS"; (D) A LIST OF GERMAN OFFICERS, INCLUDING WALDHEIM, WHO RECEIVED A MEDAL FROM THE CROATIAN FASCIST GOVERNMENT FOR BRAVERY DURING THE CAMPAIGN IN WESTERN BOSNIA IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1942 (THIS DOCUMENT WAS FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES OF CROATIA); (E) WALDHEIM'S NAME ON A UN LIST OF WAR CRIMINALS; AND (F) SEVERAL GERMAN ORDERS AND REPORTS BEARING WALDHEIM'S SIGNATURE.

8. POST IS TRANSLATING RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE "DUGA" ARTICLE AND WILL TRANSMIT THESE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND INFO ADDRESSEES.

9. COMMENT: "DUGA", PUBLISHED BIWEEKLY IN BELGRADE (ALSO THE CAPITAL OF SERBIA AS WELL AS YUGOSLAVIA), HAS TAKEN A STRONG INTEREST IN REPORTING THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR FROM THE BEGINNING. THE REUTERS CORRESPONDENT IN BELGRADE (PROTECT) HAS CONFIDED TO US THAT "DUGA" RECEIVED A COPY OF THE WALDHEIM ARCHIVAL MATERIAL FROM THREE "VEČERNJE NOVOSTI" JOURNALISTS. "VEČERNJE NOVOSTI" WAS THE PAPER TO BREAK THE STORY OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE MATERIAL FIRST BUT, ACCORDING TO OUR REUTER SOURCE, FACED WITH GOVERNMENT PRESSURE, WAS UNWILLING TO PUBLISH THE MATERIAL ITSELF. REUTERS LOOKED AT THE SAME MATERIAL THAT "DUGA" SAW AND CAME TO DIFFERENT CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WALDHEIM'S ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO REUTERS, THE WALDHEIM DOSSIER SHOWS THAT WALDHEIM'S SIGNATURES ARE FOLLOWED BY ABBREVIATIONS THAT INDICATE HIS FUNCTION IS AS A SORT OF NOTARY ATTESTING TO THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE DOCUMENTS. IN "DUGA'S" REPRODUCTION OF SOME OF THE DOSSIER MATERIAL, THE PHOTOCOPYING WAS FAULTY AND PASSAGES INITIALED BY WALDHEIM PROHIBITING REPRISALS AGAINST CIVILIANS UNLESS IT COULD BE PROVED THEY WERE INVOLVED IN TERROR-
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IST ACTIVITY AGAINST THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN OMITTED BY "DUGA". IN TALKING WITH "DUGA", REUTERS IS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE MAGAZINE'S ERRORS IN INTERPRETING THE DOCUMENTS WERE NOT INTENTIONAL BUT SIMPLY A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE MATERIALS IT HAD RECEIVED FROM "VEČERNJE NOVOSTI". SCANLAN

END OF MESSAGE

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