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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN MEDIA REPORTS ON INTERNATIONAL AND
-- DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF WALDHEIM

1. SUMMARY. AUSTRIAN NATIONAL RADIO BROADCASTS AND THE VIENNA PRESS OF JUNE 19 REPORTED FURTHER DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT-ELECT **KURT WALDHEIM**. THE AUSTRIAN PRESS ALSO GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO CHARGES BY VIENNA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT LEADING PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP) POLITICIANS RESORTED TO ANTI-SEMITIC UNDERTONES DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN. SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG DISCUSSED WHY LUXEMBOURG HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY RESPONDED TO WALDHEIM'S ELECTION AS PRESIDENT. ORF NEWSCASTS MENTIONED THE PUBLICATION OF NEW INCRIMINATING MATERIAL BY THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS AS WELL AS THE APPEAL BY U.S. CONGRESSMEN TO PRESIDENT REAGAN TO BOYCOTT WALDHEIM'S INAUGURATION

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CEREMONY. ACCUSATIONS CONCERNING WALDHEIM'S WARTIME ACTIVITY BY A BRITISH PARLIAMENTARIAN AND AN ANTI-AUSTRIAN RALLY IN PARIS WERE ALSO BRIEFLY REPORTED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A WIDELY COVERED PRESS CONFERENCE, LEADERS OF THE VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY ACCUSED SENIOR POLITICIANS OF THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLES PARTY (OVP), WHICH BACKED **KURT WALDHEIM** FOR THE PRESIDENCY, OF HAVING USED ANTI-SEMITISM DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN A CYNICAL AND RECKLESS WAY" FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. THE MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH GROUP UNDERScoreD THEIR COMMITMENT TO AUSTRIA AND URGED THEIR COMPATRIOTS TO WORK FOR A RAPID IMPROVEMENT OF AUSTRIA'S DAMAGED IMAGE. REFERRING TO WALDHEIM'S ANNOUNCED PLANS TO VISIT THE FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMP AT MAUTHAUSEN, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY SAID WALDHEIM MUST CONVINCINGLY DEMONSTRATE "DEEP INNER REVERENCE" RATHER THAN ENGAGE IN SUPERFICIAL ACTS OF RECONCILIATION.

3. OVP SECRETARY-GENERAL MICHAEL GRAFF, WHO DREW THE MOST CRITICISM DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, STRESSED IN A JUNE 18 INTERVIEW ON NATIONAL TELEVISION THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM OR LEADERS OF HIS PARTY WERE UNJUSTIFIED. GRAFF CONTINUED TO ACCUSE "INDIVIDUALS OF THE WJC" OF "MASTERMINDING" A SLANDER CAMPAIGN AGAINST WALDHEIM. ASKED TO COMMENT ON WALDHEIM'S RECENT OUTSPOKEN CONDEMNATION OF ANTI-SEMITISM, VIENNA VICE MAYOR ERHARD BUSEK, A POPULAR OVP LEADER, CONCEDED IN A JUNE 19 RADIO INTERVIEW THAT HE WOULD HAVE WELCOMED WALDHEIM MAKING SIMILAR STATEMENTS EARLY IN THE CAMPAIGN.

4. SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG OF JUNE 19 REPORTED LUXEMBOURG FM JACQUES POOS AS SAYING HIS COUNTRY HAS NOT FORGOTTEN TO SEND A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM. LUXEMBOURG WOULD WAIT FOR THE RESULTS OF VARIOUS INVESTIGATIONS INTO WALDHEIM'S WARTIME RECORD BEFORE ACTING ACCORDINGLY.

5. ACCORDING TO TODAY'S ORF NEWS, 111 MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN CALLING ON HIM NOT TO SEND A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND PRESIDENT-ELECT **KURT WALDHEIM'S** INAUGURATION. THE SAME REPORT NOTED THAT A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT CLAIMED MR. WALDHEIM WAS PRESENT DURING "THE HANDLING OF BODIES OF 30 MURDERED BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR" IN THE BALKANS. A BRITISH GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS INTO WALDHEIM'S WAR RECORD.

6. ALSO IN THE NEWS TODAY WAS A REPORT ABOUT THE RELEASE OF A 3-PAGE DOCUMENT BY THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS (WJC), WHICH THE WJC CLAIMED "SHATTERS ANY ASSERTION THAT MR. WALDHEIM DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE MOST BRUTAL NAZI ATROCITIES IN THE BALKANS". THE DOCUMENT CONCERNS THE KILLING BY GERMAN TROOPS OF MORE THAN 1000 GREEK

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CIVILIANS, INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE SAME
NEWSCAST MENTIONED ANTI-AUSTRIAN PROTEST RALLIES STAGED
IN FRONT OF THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS ON JUNE 18.
THERE WAS NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON ANY OF THE NEWS ITEMS
MENTIONED HERE. END. BLOCH
END OF MESSAGE

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