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TEXT
TAGS: PREL, AU, CA
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM CASE: CANADIAN LAWYER ISSUES REPORT

REF: OTTAWA 4797 (NOTAL)

1. MONTREAL LAWYER IRWIN COTLER, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS, ISSUED A 75-PAGE REPORT JUNE 19 CALLING FOR THE FORMATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL TO INVESTIGATE THE EVIDENCE AGAINST **KURT WALDHEIM**. HE SUGGESTED THAT CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, GREECE, YUGOSLAVIA, BRITAIN, AUSTRIA AND THE FRG SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE TRIBUNAL.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, COTLER MAINTAINED THAT THERE IS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE OF WALDHEIM'S COMPLICITY IN WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. THE COTLER REPORT INCLUDES A PREVIOUSLY UNRELEASED OCTOBER 12, 1944 DOCUMENT BEARING WALDHEIM'S SIGNATURE DEALING WITH POCKETS OF RESISTANCE IN MACEDONIA WHICH WERE BRUTALLY

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SUPPRESSED. NEWS REPORTS INDICATE THAT COTLER OBTAINED HIS DOCUMENTATION FROM THE U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

3. COTLER CRITICIZED CANADA FOR ACCEPTING WALDHEIM IN THE 1950'S AS AUSTRIA'S MINISTER AND SUBSEQUENTLY AS AMBASSADOR, ALTHOUGH CANADA HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE 1948 WAR CRIMES COMMISSION WHICH CLASSIFIED WALDHEIM AS A SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINAL.

4. DURING QUESTION PERIOD IN PARLIAMENT JUNE 20, PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY CAREFULLY AVOIDED SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA OF AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL BUT EMPHASIZED THE WORK OF THE DESCHENES COMMISSION NOW INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE WAR CRIMINALS RESIDENT IN CANADA. MULRONEY ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD ASK EXTAFF TO EXAMINE AVAILABLE RECORDS OF THE CHECK MADE ON WALDHEIM WHEN AUSTRIA SOUGHT AGREEMENT FOR WALDHEIM IN THE MID-1950'S.

NILES

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