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FOR P/P, P/M, P/FN, P/FW, EU-SPRINGER, VOA/BX
STATE FOR EUR/CE, PASS TO AMBASSADOR RONALD LAUDER
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT
SUBJECT: AUSTRIA MEDIA REACTION

1. THE AMBASSADOR'S N.Y. LECTURE: UNDER THE FRONT PAGE HEADLINE "AMBASSADOR LAUDER APPRAISES VIENNA RELATIONS POSITIVELY," THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "DIE PRESSE" TODAY CARRIED THE FOLLOWING REPORT FILED FROM NEW YORK BY CORRESPONDENT GEORG POSSANNER:

"THE WISH FOR A CHANGE" WAS ADDUCED BY U.S. AMBASSADOR RONALD LAUDER BEFORE THE AMERICAN-AUSTRIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS THE REASON FOR THE LARGE SHARE OF YOUNG VOTERS IN KURT WALDHEIM'S VICTORY. "THIS GENERATION IS FULL OF AMBITIONS FOR ITS COUNTRY, AND I'VE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT IT REGARDS THE CONSERVATIVES AS MORE CAPABLE THAN THE SOCIALISTS IN MAKING THEM COME TRUE."

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LAUDER LECTURED ON MONDAY ABOUT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN AMERICAN-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS, BUT HE DID NOT MENTION HIS DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN WALDHEIM'S INAUGURATION. ASKED IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS IN POSSESSION OF SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT WALDHEIM HAS COMMITTED WAR CRIMES, THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO THE CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

THE STATE OF AMERICAN-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS WAS APPRAISED BY LAUDER IN EXTRAORDINARILY POSITIVE TERMS.

2. FURTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT: THE AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY DAILY "NEUE AZ" TODAY CARRIED THE FOLLOWING SHORT EDITORIAL ON PAGE 3:

"THE DUST DOES NOT SETTLE. LUXEMBOURG WANTS TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT WALDHEIM'S (1943) DISSERTATION IN WHICH HE IS SAID TO HAVE ADVOCATED THE ANNEXATION OF THE BENELUX STATES BY THE THEN GERMAN REICH. RALF DAHRENDORF, ONE OF THE LEADING INTELLECTUALS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, HAS CANCELED THE ADDRESS HE WAS TO DELIVER AT THE OPENING OF THE SALZBURG FESTIVAL, AND GOTTFRIED REINHARDT, THE SON OF THE FAMOUS STAGE DIRECTOR (MAX REINHARDT) . . . , HAS NOW APPEALED IN MOVING WORDS TO WALDHEIM NOT TO 'DESECRATE' THE FATHER'S MEMORIAL BY HIS PRESENCE. AND WHEN THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WOULD RATHER BE WILLING TO DO WITHOUT AUSTRIA THAN WITHOUT HIS NON-PARTICIPATION IN WALDHEIM'S INAUGURATION, IT IS MORE THAN A MERE QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL. MAYBE THIS WILL BE FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE TAKEN IN BY THE 'SLANDER THEORY' PRODUCED BY THE PEOPLE'S PARTY.

ANOTHER SOCIALIST PARTY DAILY, THE GRAZ "NEUE ZEIT" OF JUNE 29, POINTED OUT EDITORIALY THAT THE AMBASSADORS OF THE U.S., ISRAEL AND THE USSR WILL NOT BE PRESENT AT WALDHEIM'S INAUGURATION. THE PAPER WROTE: "IT IS AN ODD FACT THAT PRECISELY THOSE NEWSPAPERS AND POLITICIANS ARE NOW ANGRY AT THE FOREIGN WORLD WHO, BEFORE (THE RUNOFF ELECTION) ON JUNE 8, HAD KEPT SAYING THAT THE VOTERS SHOULD THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE FOREIGN WORLD. AND THEY ARE, OF COURSE, ANGRY ALSO AT THE GOVERNMENT WHICH THEY ACCUSE OF NOT 'FORCING' U.S. AMBASSADOR LAUDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INAUGURATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT, OTHERWISE, AUSTRIA'S RELATIONS WITH THE USA WOULD BE 'SERIOUSLY STRAINED.' WHY DON'T THEY, IN THE SAME BREATH AND WITH EQUAL EMPHASIS, ASK WALDHEIM THAT HE USE HIS INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS? IF THESE CONTACTS ARE REALLY AS GOOD AS WAS ALLEGED IN THE CAMPAIGN, IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR HIM TO SUMMON MESSRS. LAUDER, ELIZUR AND YEFREMOV TO VIENNA ON JULY 8."

A PROVINCIAL DAILY OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTY, THE KLAGENFURT "NEUE VOLKSZEITUNG" WITH SUBEDITIONS IN SALZBURG AND INNSBRUCK, WROTE ON JUNE 28 UNDER THE HEADLINE "AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY": "IS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR NOT PARTICIPATING ON ORDERS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, OR IS

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THIS A 'PRIVATE' DECISION BY LAUDER? IS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR PROTECTING U.S. INTERESTS IN AUSTRIA OR RATHER THE INTERESTS OF THE INCITED LOBBY OF AN ETHNIC POWER GROUP? OR IS IT - AND EVEN THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE - SIMPLY INCOMPETENCE? LET'S CALL A SPADE A SPADE: THIS IS AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY. PERHAPS WASHINGTON WOULD DO WELL TO SEND US ANOTHER U.S. AMBASSADOR, AN UNBIASED ONE. OUR UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 09632

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NEUTRAL COUNTRY CLOSE TO THE IRON CURTAIN DESERVES SUCH AN AMBASSADOR." KOHL

END OF MESSAGE

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