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TEXT

BT

TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU, MARR, IS, PTER, LY, IR SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.135/86, FOR 07/23/86

"READER'S DIGEST" ACCUSES AUSTRIA OF ILLEGAL ARMS DEALS IN MIDDLE EAST

1. A "READER'S DIGEST" ARTICLE BY TERRORIST EXPERT NATHAN ADAMS LISTS AUSTRIA AMONG SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHICH ILLEGALLY SUPPLIED ARMS TO WARRING NATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND COUNTRIES IN THE REGION ACCUSED OF SPONSORING TERRORISM. AUSTRIA'S NATIONALIZED VOEST COMPANY IS

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CHARGED WITH TRADING HOWITZERS FOR OIL WITH IRAN AND DELIVERING "MATERIALS" FOR THE PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS TO IRAQ. THE REPORT ALSO ACCUSES VIENNA-BASED SYRIAN BUSINESSMAN MONZER AL-KASSAR OF SHADY DEALINGS INVOLVING LEADING AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SUSPECTED TERRORIST ABUL ABBAS. ACCORDING TO A VOEST SPOKESMAN, ALL OF THE CHARGES AGAINST THE FIRM WERE DISMISSED BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF LINZ IN MAY OF THIS YEAR. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, JULY 23)

DEFENSE MINISTER CONSIDERING ACQUISITION OF GUIDED MISSILES

2. ACCORDING TO A NEWS REPORT, AUSTRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER HELMUT KRUENES IS CONSIDERING PROCURING GUIDED MISSILES FOR THE AUSTRIAN ARMY. KRUENES REPORTEDLY SAID DELIBERATIONS OF THIS KIND WERE LEGITIMATE. A DECISION, HOWEVER, COULD ONLY BE BASED ON A BROAD CONSENSUS OF AUSTRIA'S POLITICAL PARTIES, THE DEFENSE MINISTER STATED. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, JULY 23)

ANTI-SEMITISM IN AUSTRIA

3. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, THE SPO'S FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN, FRITZ MARSCH, SAID HE WAS SHOCKED BY RECENT ISOLATED INDICATIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN AUSTRIA, WHICH HE SAID THE OVP HAD SUPPORTED. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE WEEKLY "PROFIL", OVP SECRETARY-GENERAL MICHAEL GRAFF DEPLORED THE EXISTENCE OF REMNANTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN AUSTRIA, WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, HAD BEEN STIRRED UP BY ATTACKS FROM THE WJC. --- IN A PRESS STATEMENT, LEADERS OF THE YOUNG GENERATION OF THE SPO DEMANDED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OMBUDSMAN TO FIGHT ETHNIC DISCRIMINATION, IN VIEW OF EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, INDEPENDENT WEEKLY PROFIL, JULY 21,23)

NATIONALIZED INDUSTRY: BLEAK OUTLOOK FOR SWIFT RECOVERY

4. AUSTRIA'S NATIONALIZED INDUSTRY, WHICH SUFFERED AN AS 12.5 BILLION LOSS LAST YEAR, PROBABLY WILL INCUR A DEFICIT OF FROM AS 4 TO 5 BILLION THIS YEAR. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONALIZED INDUSTRY HOLDING COMPANY (OEIAG) ANNOUNCED IN A JULY 22 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT IT WILL REQUIRE FURTHER HEAVY FEDERAL SUBSIDIES TO OFFSET LOSSES. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, JULY 23)

PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENTS TO BRING BACK US TOURISTS

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5. VIENNA VICE MAYOR HANS MAYR SAID IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE CITY HAS PLANNED A SERIES OF PARALLEL EVENTS TO THE ONGOING "VIENNA - 1900" EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK IN ITS EFFORT TO BRING BACK U.S. TOURISTS TO AUSTRIA. AN AUSTRIAN TELEVISION PRODUCTION, "VIENNA 1900", WILL BE SHOWN ON AMERICAN PRIME TIME TELEVISION (PBS) LATER THIS FALL. MEANWHILE, THE CITY OF SALZBURG UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 10880

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REPORTED A 65 PER CENT DROP OF U.S. TOURISM TO SALZBURG IN JUNE. (ORF NEWS, SOCIALIST AZ, INDEPENDENT SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN, JULY 22,23)

PRESIDENT WALDHEIM OPENS BREGENZ FESTIVAL

6. IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO THE BREGENZ LAKESIDE FESTIVAL, PRESIDENT KURT WALDHEIM CALLED ON AUSTRIA TO MAKE INTERNATIONAL OPEN-MINDEDNESS ITS NATIONAL DUTY. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, JULY 23)

NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA

7. ROBERT JAMES O'NEILL, 54-YEAR OLD CARREER DIPLOMAT AND FORMER BRITISH CABINET MINISTER, WAS APPOINTED AS THE NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, JULY 22). LAUDER END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED