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CONTROLS

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TEXT

TAGS: PGOV, BZ, GE  
SUBJECT: BDC WALDHEIM INQUIRY

1. PROFESSOR OF HISTORY ROBERT HERZSTEIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA HAS WRITTEN TO THE BERLIN DOCUMENT CENTER SEEKING THE RECORDS OF 8 INDIVIDUALS FOR A "SCHOLARLY BIOGRAPHY OF DR. KURT WALDHEIM, CONCENTRATING UPON THE PERIOD 1938 TO 1948". IN THE LIST OF 8, HERZSTEIN HAS NOT INCLUDED WALDHEIM HIMSELF, BUT HAS INCLUDED MRS. WALDHEIM (MAIDEN NAME ELIZABETH RITSCHL). HERZSTEIN IS DESCRIBED IN A FRONT-PAGE STORY ON WALDHEIM THAT APPEARED IN THE LONDON SUNDAY TIMES AS THE PROFESSOR OF EUROPEAN HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA WHOSE RESEARCH "FIRST UNCOVERED RECORDS OF WALDHEIM'S WARTIME SERVICE AS A GERMAN STAFF OFFICER IN THE BALKANS."

2. THE CENTER HAS CANVASSED ITS RECORDS AND FOUND 97 PAGES OF DOCUMENTS WITH RESPECT TO TWO OF THE MEN ON THE LIST (GENERAL OBERST ALEXANDER LOEHR AND

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OBERGRUPPENFUEHRER ARTUR PHLEPS). THE CENTER ALSO FOUND AN NSDAP MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR MRS. WALDHEIM. THE CENTER HAS NO RECORDS FOR THE OTHER 5 NAMES SUBMITTED BY HERZSTEIN.

3. SINCE LOEHR AND PHLEPS ARE BOTH DEAD, THE CENTER WOULD ORDINARILY SEND PHOTOCOPIES OF THEIR RECORDS AS A MATTER OF ROUTINE (LOEHR WAS EXECUTED BY THE YUGOSLAVS AFTER THE WAR AS A WAR CRIMINAL), AND REPLY WITH A NEGATIVE REPORT ON THE 5 NAMES. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE RECENT NOTORIETY AND POLITICAL SENSITIVITY, THE CENTER WOULD ORDINARILY NOT REPEAT NOT RELEASE INFORMATION ON MRS. WALDHEIM. MISSION NEEDS GUIDANCE ON WHETHER TO PROCEED IN THIS FASHION AND IF WE DO SO, HOW TO CONVEY INFORMATION TO HERZSTEIN. PROVIDING ANSWERS ON 7 OUT OF 8 OF THE NAMES HE SUBMITTED WOULD LIKELY MISLEAD HIM INTO BELIEVING THAT THE CENTER HAS EVEN MORE INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTATION ON MRS. WALDHEIM.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS ON BERLIN DOCUMENT CENTER RESPONSE TO PROFESSOR ROBERT HERZSTEIN'S REQUEST. KORNBLUM  
END OF MESSAGE

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