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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU, PARM, ELAB  
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.202/86, FOR 10/31/86

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"WASHINGTON POST" ACCUSATIONS AGAINST WALDHEIM  
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1. LEADING AUSTRIAN PAPERS - WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID "KRONENZEITUNG" - TODAY CITE A "WASHINGTON POST" REPORT CLAIMING THAT BETWEEN 1946 AND 1947 SOVIET AND YUGOSLAV INTELLIGENCE TRIED TO RECRUIT WALDHEIM AS A COMMUNIST AGENT, THREATENING HIM WITH WAR CRIMES. THE "WASHINGTON POST" STORY IS SOURCED TO A FORMER YUGOSLAV MILITARY OFFICIAL. THIS OFFICIAL HAS

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DENIED THE STORY, ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN RADIO. WALDHEIM SPOKESMAN GEROLD CHRISTIAN REPORTEDLY HAS TOLD THE "POST" THAT, "CONTRARY TO EARLIER STATEMENTS BY WALDHEIM, RECENT FINDINGS SHOW WALDHEIM WAS STATIONED IN THE KOZARA REGION IN YUGOSLAVIA IN 1942". CHRISTIAN, SPEAKING ON NATIONAL RADIO LAST NIGHT, SAID HE HAD BEEN MISQUOTED BY THE "POST". HE EMPHASIZED THAT WALDHEIM HAD ALREADY CONFIRMED IN AN APRIL 1 INTERVIEW THAT HE HAD BEEN IN THIS AREA IN HIS CAPACITY AS A SUPPLY OFFICER. THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE HAS DISMISSED THE ENTIRE "POST" REPORT AS "RIDICULOUS". CHRISTIAN SAID THAT THE CHARGES ALLEGING THAT WALDHEIM HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN WAR CRIMES IN THE BALKANS WERE "OLD ACCUSATIONS DEVOID OF ALL FOUNDATIONS WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN REFUTED SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST".

--- IN ITS REGULAR EVENING NEWS ROUND-UP ON OCTOBER 30, AUSTRIAN TV'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT NOTED THAT THE ISSUE IS "AGAIN BEING WIDELY COVERED BY THE U.S. MEDIA. ATTORNEY GENERAL EDWARD MEESE IS QUOTED AS SAYING "THERE IS NO HURRY IN THIS MATTER SINCE IT DESERVES CLOSE SCRUTINY, CONSIDERING THAT IT INVOLVES A CURRENT HEAD OF STATE AND A FORMER UN SECRETARY-GENERAL". THE MASS DAILY "KURIER" IS THE ONLY AUSTRIAN PAPER TO COMMENT ON THE NEW ALLEGATIONS. EDITOR-IN-CHIEF HANS RAUSCHER CHARGES THAT WALDHEIM IS AGAIN AT THE CENTER OF "DEFAMATORY REPORTS BY OTHERWISE PRESTIGIOUS U.S. PAPERS". "WALDHEIM HIMSELF, HOWEVER, IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR SOME OF THE CONFUSION SURROUNDING HIS WARTIME ACTIVITIES", SAYS RAUSCHER. HE ALSO NOTES THAT THE TIMING OF THE ACCUSATIONS COINCIDES WITH THE GATHERING IN VIENNA OF FMS FOR THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, SOCIALIST AZ, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, INDEPENDENT PROVINCIAL SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN, OCTOBER 31).

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SHULTZ-SHEVARNADZE VIENNA MEETING  
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2. ACCORDING TO THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, THE FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ AND SOVIET FM EDUARD SHEVARNADZE IN VIENNA NOVEMBER 6 (SIC) IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE AN AGREEMENT ON A "DRASTIC REDUCTION OF INTERMEDIATE-RANGE MISSILES, AND PROGRESS ON REDUCTION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS AS WELL AS ON THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR TESTS, THE DAILY "DIE PESSE" REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON TODAY. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, OCTOBER 31)

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CSCE EVENTS  
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6. AUSTRIA HAS PREPARED A SERIES OF DETAILED SUGGESTIONS FOR ALL THREE BASKETS, AMBASSADOR TOROVSKY SAID IN A NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW.

--- AT THE NNA SALZBURG CSCE SYMPOSIUM, PARTICIPANTS WARNED AGAINST OVERESTIMATING THE ROLE OF NNAS AT CSCE.

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--- MEANWHILE, SOME 200 INTELLECTUALS, INCLUDING FAMOUS DISSIDENTS SUCH AS LEV KOPELEV, VACLAV HAVEL ET AL., HAVE ISSUED A PUBLIC CALL FOR DETENTE IN EUROPE.  
--- IN AN INTERVIEW, SOVIET DISSIDENT VLADIMIR MAXIMOV SAID THINGS COULD CHANGE FOR THE BETTER IN THE USSR AS A RESULT OF GORBACHEV'S NEW, "MORE FLEXIBLE" APPROACH.  
AT THE SAME TIME MAXIMOV CALLED ON THE WEST TO TAKE A  
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MUCH TOUGHER STAND TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. (INDEPENDENT  
DIE PRESSE, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, OCTOBER 31)

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NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR CALLS ON PRESIDENT WALDHEIM  
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7. NEWLY-APPOINTED SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA GENNADIY SHIKIN PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** YESTERDAY. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, OCTOBER 30). LAUDER  
END OF MESSAGE

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