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TEXT  
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SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL ON KURT WALDHEIM  
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1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE ENTITLED "KURT WALDHEIM: IT GETS WORSE" WAS LEAD EDITORIAL IN NOVEMBER 15 EDITION OF WASHINGTON POST. BEGIN TEXT:

KURT WALDHEIM, THE PRESIDENT OF AUSTRIA, REGRETS ANY MISIMPRESSION THAT HE MIGHT INADVERTENTLY HAVE LEFT REGARDING HIS RECORD IN WORLD WAR II. BUT IF CERTAIN OF HIS MILITARY ACTIVITIES REMAINED A SECRET FOR 40 YEARS, HE WANTS YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT WAS MERELY AN OVERSIGHT ON HIS PART AND CERTAINLY NOT DELIBERATE CONCEALMENT. YOU ALSO NEED TO KNOW THAT HE CONDEMNS ANTI-SEMITISM; WHEN HE WAS LIVING IN NEW YORK, AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, HIS OWN PHYSICIAN WAS JEWISH. HOW CAN YOU DOUBT HIS SINCERITY?

HE CONVEYED THOSE THOUGHTS IN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES. HE WAS RESPONDING TO THE SUCCESSION OF REVELATIONS THAT HAVE APPEARED SINCE LAST SPRING, MOST RECENTLY DUSKO DODER'S ARTICLES IN THIS NEWSPAPER. AFTER HAVING CLAIMED FOR 40 YEARS THAT HE WAS WOUNDED AND

DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMY IN 1942, MR. WALDHEIM WAS FORCED

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TO ACKNOWLEDGE, IN THE COURSE OF THE AUSTRIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN, THAT HE HAD REMAINED IN UNIFORM UNTIL 1945. HAVING DENIED ALL SUMMER THAT HE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE GERMAN ARMY'S UNSPEAKABLY BRUTAL SWEEP THROUGH THE KOZARA REGION OF YUGOSLAVIA IN 1942, HE CONCEDED THROUGH A SPOKESMAN LAST MONTH THAT IN FACT HE HAD BEEN THERE -- ALTHOUGH, HE SAID, HE WAS ONLY A SUPPLY OFFICER. BUT DOCUMENTS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES SHOW, MR. DODER THEN DISCOVERED, THAT IN THE KOZARA OPERATION THE WEHRMACHT'S SUPPLY DEPARTMENT HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEPORTATIONS IN WHICH SOME 68,000 PEOPLE WERE SWEEPED, WITH GREAT LOSS OF LIFE, INTO CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND FORCED LABOR.

WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES, MR. WALDHEIM PLAINTIVELY TOLD THE TIMES, WHOSE CORRESPONDENT OBSERVED THAT, AS AUSTRIA'S PRESIDENT, HE IS BEING QUIETLY SHUNNED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS -- WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS. ONE OF THE EXCEPTIONS IS THE SOVIET UNION. MR. DIDER HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT IN 1947-48 THE YUGOSLAV AND SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES KNEW THAT MR. WALDHEIM HAD BEEN IN THE KOZARA OPERATION AND ATTEMPTED TO RECRUIT HIM AS AN AGENT. A FEW MONTHS LATER THE YUGOSLAVS WERE DIVERTED TO MORE URGENT BUSINESS WHEN THEY BROKE OUT OF THE SOVIET BLOC. AS FOR THE SOVIETS, MR. WALDHEIM SAYS THAT THEY NEVER APPROACHED HIM. WHETHER YOU BELIEVE THAT WILL DEPEND ON YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SOVIET INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM'S REPUTATION FOR CHARITY AND FORGETFULNESS.

IN AUSTRIA, THE PRINCIPAL REACTION TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS SEEMS TO BE RESENTMENT OF FOREIGN MEDDLING AND POKING INTO A BAD TIME IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY -- YEARS THAT MOST AUSTRIANS WOULD PREFER NOT TO THINK ABOUT. BUT COUNTRIES THAT REFUSE TO COME TO TERMS WITH THEIR OWN HISTORY LEAVE THEMSELVES VULNERABLE TO PEOPLE WHO TAKE THE TROUBLE TO REMEMBER ACCURATELY. END TEXT. WHITEHEAD

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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