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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU, CSCE
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.216/86, FOR 11/21/86

AUSTRIA "DISAPPOINTED" AT ISRAELI DECISION TO DOWNGRADE
VIENNA EMBASSY

1. FM PETER JANKOWITSCH HAS CALLED ISRAEL'S DECISION TO
KEEP ITS AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA AT HOME "A DISAPPOINTMENT"
... WHICH HAS NOW CREATED A NEW SITUATION FOR AUSTRIA",
THE ENTIRE AUSTRIAN PRESS REPORTED TODAY WITHOUT EDITORIAL
COMMENT. "AS A COUNTER MEASURE", AUSTRIA WILL NOT SEND

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ITS AMBASSADOR BACK TO ISRAEL, HE SAID. NEVERTHELESS, AUSTRIA WILL CONTINUE TO HOST SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL, THE FM STRESSED. EARLIER YESTERDAY, CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY HAD "REGRETTED" THE ISRAELI PRONOUNCEMENT, ADDING THAT "AUSTRIA WILL CONTINUE ITS TRADITIONAL EFFORTS TO ENTERTAIN 'GOOD' AND 'CONSTRUCTIVE' RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL." OVP SECRETARY-GENERAL MICHAEL GRAFF SAID AUSTRIA "WILL BE ABLE TO GET OVER" THE ABSENCE OF AN ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA. IN A FURTHER COMMENT, GRAFF ACCUSED "CERTAIN ISRAELI POLITICIANS" OF "USING (IN A CYNICAL WAY) THE SUFFERINGS OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE FOR POLITICAL ENDS".

--- MEANWHILE, ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER RABIN REPORTEDLY CALLED IT "VERY UNLIKELY" THAT ISRAEL WILL APPOINT A NEW AMBASSADOR UNTIL PRESIDENT KURT WALDHEIM'S WAR-TIME RECORD HAS BEEN FULLY CLARIFIED". (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, ORF NEWS, NOVEMBER 20, 21)

INITIAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS REPORTED FROM CSCE

2. SINCE THE START OF THE VIENNA CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE, THE SOVIET UNION HAS GRANTED 98 PERMANENT AND 300 TEMPORARY EXIT VISAS TO SOVIET CITIZENS, SOVIET CSCE CHIEF DELEGATE KASHLEV TOLD REPORTERS IN VIENNA NOVEMBER 20. IN AN INTERVIEW ON AUSTRIAN RADIO, KASHLEV STRESSED THAT HIS COUNTRY DID NOT SHUN THE DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, BUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE A "BALANCED DISCUSSION" OF ALL THREE BASKETS. WHILE CHARGING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE WEST, KASHLEV SAID THAT "MISTAKES HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE IN THE SOVIET UNION IN THIS RESPECT". THE DIPLOMAT POINTED TO THE "RADICAL PROCESS OF REFORMATION AND DEMOCRATIZATION" IN THE USSR UNDER GENERAL SECRETARY MIKHAIL GORBACHEV.

--- A NEWS ITEM TODAY, REPORTING BRITISH CHARGES OF CSCE VIOLATIONS BY THE SOVIET UNION, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND BULGARIA, NOTED THAT A MUCH "HARSHER TONE" HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY BOTH SIDES RECENTLY. IN THIS CONTEXT, A U.S. DIPLOMAT REPORTEDLY REMARKED THAT THE U.S. HAD BEEN SPARED THE LATEST EAST BLOCK VERBAL AGGRESSION TARGETED AT OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES IN AN APPARENT EFFORT BY THE SOVIETS "NOT TO FORFEIT THEIR CURRENT GOOD STANDING" WITH THE U.S. (ORF NEWS, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, NOVEMBER 21)

"AUSTRIA WON'T GIVE IN TO TERRORISTS", INTERIOR MINISTER BLECHA SAYS

3. AUSTRIA WOULD "NOT BEND TO TERRORISM", AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTER KARL BLECHA SAID IN A "KURIER" INTERVIEW NOVEMBER 2. BLECHA AGAIN CATEGORICALLY DENIED A RECENT REPORT BY THIS PAPER WHICH HAD CLAIMED THAT OFFICIALS OF

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HIS MINISTRY HAD MET WITH ABU NIDAL MEN IN SYRIA. AT THE SAME TIME BLECHA DEFENDED THE "NECESSITY (FOR AUSTRIA) TO ENTERTAIN MULTI-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH ALL NATIONS". DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO SYRIA BLECHA STATED THAT THE SYRIANS HAD MADE GREAT EFFORTS TO DISPROVE INTERNATIONAL ALLEGATIONS OF SYRIAN COMPLICITY WITH TERRORISTS. HE SAID THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR AUSTRIA TO JOIN IN "SO-CALLED SANCTIONS" AGAINST SYRIA BY THE EC. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, NOVEMBER 21)

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ELECTION STATEMENTS

4. IN FINAL ELECTION STATEMENTS NOVEMBER 20, THE CANDIDATES REITERATED THE THEMES OF THEIR CAMPAIGNS. PAPERS TODAY FOCUSED ON A STATEMENT BY OVP LEADER ALOIS MOCK WHO MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD EITHER HEAD THE NEW AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT OR ELSE LEAD AN OVP OPPOSITION, GIVEN "SPO PLANS TO CONTINUE A SMALL COALITION WITH THE FREEDOM PARTY (FPO)". CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY DECLINED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER HE WOULD SERVE AS DEPUTY CHANCELLOR IN A FUTURE COALITION GOVERNMENT.

--- MEANWHILE, SUPPORT FOR FREDA MEISSNER-BLAU'S "GREEN-ALTERNATIVE LIST" IS ON THE RISE AGAIN IN THE WAKE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER IN SWITZERLAND, ACCORDING TO THE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE IN THE MASS-CIRCULATION DAILY "KRONENZEITUNG" TODAY. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, SOCIALIST AZ, INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, NOVEMBER 21)

FORMER FPO CENTRAL SECRETARY LEAVES PARTY IN PROTEST OVER "EXTREME RIGHT WING PHILOSOPHY"

5. TWO DAYS BEFORE THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS, FORMER FPO CENTRAL SECRETARY WALTER GRABHER-MEYER HAS LEFT HIS PARTY IN PROTEST OVER WHAT HE CALLED THE PARTY'S "NEW, EXTREME RIGHT-WING TENDENCIES". AS AN EXAMPLE GRABHER-MEYER NOTED THAT A MINISCULE NEO-FASCIST PARTY HAS PUBLICLY CALLED ON VOTERS TO SUPPORT HAIDER. IN A FIRST REACTION, PARTY CHAIRMAN JOERG HAIDER DENOUNCED GRABHER-MEYER'S CHARGES AS "DEFAMATORY LIES". HAIDER EMPHATICALLY STRESSED HIS COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC AND LIBERAL PRINCIPLES AND CONDEMNED RIGHT-WING RADICALISM. (ORF NEWS, NOVEMBER 21)
AUSTRIAN UN RAPORTEUR SCEPTICAL ABOUT SOVIET WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

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6. A SOVIET RETREAT FROM AFGHANISTAN CANNOT BE EXPECTED BEFORE 1990, UN RAPPORTEUR OVP MP FELIX ERMACORA TOLD REPORTERS IN VIENNA YESTERDAY. ERMACORA ACCUSED THE SOVIET TROOPS AND THE AFGHAN REGIME OF MASSIVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. HE SAID HE HAD WITNESSED SOVIET STRAFING OF AFGHAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN REFUGEES. ERMACORA CRITICIZED THE FACT THAT ONLY A ABRIDGED VERSION OF HIS REPORT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED AT THE UN, IGNORING IMPORTANT PASSAGES ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. (MOST PAPERS, ORF NEWS, NOVEMBER 21) LAUDER

ADMIN
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