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TEXT
TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.218/86, FOR 11/25/86

INTERNATIONAL REACTION CRITICAL OF FPO LEADER HAIDER'S
"RIGHT-WING COURSE"

1. WEST EUROPEAN MEDIA REACTION TO SUNDAY'S GENERAL
ELECTIONS RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE IN THE AUSTRIAN PRESS.
FOREIGN COMMENTATORS FOCUSED ON HAIDER'S "SENSATIONAL"
SUCCESS, WHICH HAS BEEN WIDELY INTERPRETED AS A "MASSIVE

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SHIFT TO THE RIGHT". IN THIS CONTEXT, CRITICAL DISCUSSION OF THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR AND AUSTRIA'S PROBLEMS IN HANDLING IT HAVE RE-SURFACED IN WESTERN NEWSPAPERS. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, INDEPENDENT KURIER, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, ORF NEWS, NOVEMBER 25)

ISRAELI REACTION

2. THE ISRAELI PRESS HAS CALLED THE ELECTION RESULT "A DANGEROUS MOVE TO THE RIGHT" AND A "CONTINUATION OF THE TREND ESTABLISHED DURING THE WALDHEIM ELECTION," AUSTRIAN RADIO REPORTED TODAY. THIS DEVELOPMENT COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT FUTURE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN VIENNA AND JERUSALEM, ISRAELI PAPERS REPORTEDLY SAID. FORMER ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, MICHAEL ELIZUR, "SHARPLY CRITICIZED" HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON AUSTRO-ISRAELI RELATIONS, THE REPORT NOTED. IT FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE OTHER PUBLIC VOICES IN ISRAEL WHICH FAVOR A POSITIVE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. (ORF RADIO NEWS, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, NOVEMBER 25)

U.S. MEDIA REACTION "OBJECTIVE"

3. U.S. NEWSPAPERS HAVE COMMENTED IN A NOTABLY "OBJECTIVE" AND FACTUAL WAY SO FAR, "DIE PRESSE" CORRESPONDENT G. POSSANNER REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON. THE "NEW YORK TIMES" VIEWED HAIDER AS A "MERCURIAL NATIONALIST WITH PAN-GERMAN SENTIMENTS", BUT DOES NOT IMPUTE A SIMILAR DISPOSITION TO AUSTRIAN VOTERS, THE CORRESPONDENT POINTED OUT. THERE IS SPECULATION IN THE U.S. PRESS WHETHER HAIDER PROFITED FROM THE "WALDHEIM EFFECT", POSSANNER SAID. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, NOVEMBER 25)

MORE AUSTRIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT

4. AUSTRIAN MEDIA OPINION AS EXPRESSED IN EDITORIALS TODAY IS ANTICIPATING MORE NEGATIVE INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO THE UNEXPECTED GAINS BY THE FPO UNDER HAIDER. MOST EDITORIALISTS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE FOR A GRAND COALITION OF THE SPO AND THE OVP. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, SOCIALIST AZ, NOVEMBER 25)

EXPULSION OF AUSTRIAN FREEDOM PARTY FROM LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL EXPECTED

5. ACCORDING TO A "PROFIL" REPORT, THE FACT-FINDING DELEGATION OF THE LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL (LI), INVESTIGATING THE "POLITICAL COURSE" OF THE AUSTRIAN FREEDOMITES UNDER HAIDER, WILL RECOMMEND THAT THE LI BAN THE FPO FROM THE UNION. THE FPO'S CONCEPT OF

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"LIBERALISM" DOES NOT CONFORM TO THAT OF THE LI THE COMMISSION EXPLAINED. (INDEPENDENT WEEKLY PROFIL, NOVEMBER 25)

"YUGOSLAV DOCUMENTS PROVIDE NO BASIS FOR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST **KURT WALDHEIM**", WEEKLY SAYS

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6. ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN THE LATEST EDITION OF THE (INVESTIGATIVE) WEEKLY "PROFIL", THE MAGAZINE SAYS ITS EXAMINATION OF ACCUSATIONS AGAINST **KURT WALDHEIM** IN A DOCUMENT COMPILED BY YUGOSLAVIA DEC 18, 1947 HAS BEEN INCONCLUSIVE. IN THE COURSE OF THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR, THE YUGOSLAV PAPER "VELERNJE NOVOSTI" HAD SAID THE ARCHIVE MATERIAL (LATER FORWARDED TO THE LONDON-BASED INTERNATIONAL WAR-CRIMES COMMISSION) REVEALED CHARGES AGAINST WALDHEIM PUT FORWARD BY 2 YUGOSLAV WITNESSES, "PROFIL" SAID. (INDEPENDENT WEEKLY PROFIL, NOVEMBER 25)
--- MEANWHILE, THE "JERUSALEM POST" REPORTEDLY WROTE THAT A GOVERNMENT COMMISSION HAS FOUND ONLY "FEEBLE EVIDENCE" OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** IN WAR CRIMES. THE PAPER REPORTED THAT ISRAELI OFFICIALS ARE "EMBARASSED" ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF PRODUCING HARD EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST WALDHEIM. (ORF NEWS, INDEPENDENT KURIER, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, NOVEMBER 25).
--- IN A FIRST REACTION TO THE "JERUSALEM POST" REPORT, OVP SECRETARY-GENERAL MICHAEL GRAFF ACCUSED ISRAEL OF "CONTINUED DEFAMATION OF AUSTRIA FOR POLITICAL ENDS". GRAFF ADDED THAT ISRAEL, LIKE OTHER STATES, IS NOT EXEMPT FROM THE RULE THAT IT SHOULD PUT UP OR SHUT UP. (ORF NEWS, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, NOVEMBER 25)

SPO IN FAVOR OF GRAND COALITION; OVP DIVIDED

7. IN LINE WITH PRE-ELECTION STATEMENTS, THE SOCIALISTS ARE PUSHING FOR A COALITION WITH THE OVP, BUT OPINION IN THE OVP ON THE ISSUE IS DIVIDED, PAPERS REPORTED TODAY. CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY SAID HE EXPECTED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES TO LAST 6-8 WEEKS. SPO CHAIRMAN SINOWATZ YESTERDAY AGAIN REAFFIRMED HIS PARTY'S OPPOSITION TO FORMING A COALITION WITH HAIDER'S FPO. MEANWHILE, RUMORS ABOUND REGARDING THE HEALTH OF OVP LEADER ALOIS MOCK AND POSSIBLE INTERNAL CHANGES IN THE OVP LEADERSHIP. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT KURIER, INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, NOVEMBER 25)

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THE POST-ELECTION PROCESS

8. CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY IS OFFERING HIS GOVERNMENT'S RESIGNATION TODAY TO PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** FOLLOWING THE INCONCLUSIVE ELECTIONS. WALDHEIM IS EXPECTED TO ASK VRANITZKY TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT.

FINAL DISTRIBUTION OF PARTY SEATS IN PARLIAMENT

9. AFTER THE FINAL COUNT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS, THE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS IN THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT IS AS FOLLOWS: SPO 80; OVP 77; FPO 18; GREENS 8. (ORF NEWS, NOVEMBER 25). LAUDER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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