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DOCUMENT_ID: 136226511
INQNO: DOC4D 00390960
DOCNO: TEL 017775 86
PRODUCER: VIENNA
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19861129
TOR: 043045
DOCPREC: R
ORIGDATE: 198611281622
MHFNO: 86 2998974
DOCCLASS: U

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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RR RUEHC
DE RUFHVI #7775/01 3321623
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 281622Z NOV 86
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8774
INFO RUEHDC/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1306
RUFHMB/USDEL MBFR VIENNA 1435
RUFHBE/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 8382
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

CONTROLS
UNCLAS VIENNA 17775

STATE FOR EUR/CE, INR/WEA AND INR/P
USIA FOR EU
USDOC FOR IEP/EUR OWE FOR P. COMBE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT
TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.219/86, FOR 11/28/86

AUSTRIAN MEDIA REACTION TO U.S. WEAPONS DEAL WITH IRAN

1. THE ESCALATING AFFAIR ABOUT U.S. WEAPONS SHIPMENTS TO
IRAN HAS ELICITED A SPATE OF EDITORIAL COMMENT IN AUSTRIAN
PAPERS. SEEN AGAINST "PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PROVEN

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LEADERSHIP QUALITIES SO FAR," SOME COMMENTATORS EXPRESS BEWILDERMENT AT THE "ABRUPT AND EMBARRASSING DEMOLITION OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S POLITICAL REPUTATION". AFTER A "SERIES OF FOREIGN POLICY BLUNDERS BY THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION", WRITERS HAVE BEEN ZEROING IN ON THE "EXPECTED" WORLD-WIDE NEGATIVE POLITICAL REVERBERATIONS OF "REAGANGATE". ACCORDING TO A COMMENT IN AUSTRIA'S LARGEST DAILY "KRONENZEITUNG", WE ARE CURRENTLY WITNESSING "THE CLENSING PROCESS OF A WORKING DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM". IN A NEWS ANALYSIS PIECE, THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF THE DAILY "DIE PRESSE" NOTED THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S "PREFERENCE FOR LOYALIST POLITICAL APPOINTEES (IGNORANT OF FOREIGN POLICY AFFAIRS)" OVER "POLITICALLY EXPERT CAREER DIPLOMATS IS NOW COMING HOME TO ROOST". (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, NOVEMBER 28, ALL OTHER PAPERS, NOVEMBER 27-28). --- MEANWHILE, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR DONALD REGAN HAS COME UNDER HEAVY FIRE FROM THE U.S. MEDIA FOR HIS ROLE IN THE AFFAIR, AUSTRIAN RADIO REPORTED TODAY. (ORF NEWS, NOVEMBER 28)

IRANIAN JEWISH REFUGEES IN TRANSIT IN AUSTRIA

2. AN ESTIMATED 60-70 JEWISH REFUGEES, FLEEING PERSECUTION IN IRAN, HAVE BEEN ARRIVING IN VIENNA EVERY WEEK EN ROUTE TO THE U.S. AND ISRAEL, AUSTRIAN PAPERS REPORTED. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, NOVEMBER 28)

COALITION TALKS

3. DURING YESTERDAY'S MEETING BETWEEN CHANCELLOR-DESIGNATE FRANZ VRANITZKY AND OVP LEADER ALOIS MOCK, BOTH SIDES SET UP A SCHEDULE FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON A COALITION. THE INTER-PARTY TALKS WILL START NEXT WEEK AND ARE EXPECTED TO LAST WELL INTO JANUARY 1987. (THE DAY BEFORE, VRANITZKY HAD BEEN FORMALLY ASKED BY PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** TO FORM A "WORKABLE" GOVERNMENT). DESPITE PREVIOUS INDICATIONS TO THE CONTRARY, OVP CHIEF ALOIS MOCK IS NOW BEING TOUTED AS LIKELY DEPUTY CHANCELLOR IN A GRAND COALITION, OBSERVERS SAID. TODAY, FPO LEADER JOERG HAIDER WILL CONDUCT TALKS BOTH WITH VRANITZKY AND MOCK. --- ACCORDING TO A RECENT POLL, A LARGE MAJORITY OF AUSTRIANS FAVOR AN ALL-PARTY GOVERNMENT OVER A LIKELY SPO-OVP COALITION, BUT HAVE SPOKEN OUT AGAINST THE IDEA OF THE OVP-FPO GOVERNMENT STILL REPORTEDLY DESIRED BY INDIVIDUAL SENIOR OVP POLITICIANS. (ALL PAPERS, ORF NEWS, NOVEMBER 27, 28)

WALDHEIM

4. THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAS DENIED AS "WRONG" A RECENT REPORT BY THE AUSTRIAN WEEKLY "PROFIL" WHICH STATED THAT

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YUGOSLAV DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE WAR-TIME SERVICE OF PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** WERE "INCONCLUSIVE", PAPERS REPORTED TODAY. --- MEANWHILE, THE WJC HAS SAID A DOCUMENT WHICH IT CLAIMS WAS SIGNED BY WALDHEIM ON SEPT 7, 1944 PROVES THAT, CONTRARY TO WHAT WALDHEIM TOLD THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, HE HAD NOT BEEN ON LEAVE IN SEPT AND OCT 1944. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, INDEPENDENT UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 17775

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KURIER, NOVEMBER 27,28)

FOREIGN CRITICISM OF AUSTRIA MAKES NECESSARY A "PROFOUND ANALYSIS OF THE AUSTRIAN MIND", EDITORIAL SAYS

4. GIVEN THE FLOOD OF NEGATIVE FOREIGN REACTIONS TO THE AUSTRIAN ELECTION OUTCOME, A NOVEMBER 28 FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN THE (PRO-WALDHEIM) DAILY "DIE PRESSE" CALLED FOR A PROFOUND ANALYSIS OF "RAMPANT, WORLD WIDE ANTI-AUSTRIAN SENTIMENTS". IT MUST BE ADMITTED THAT CONTRARY TO GENERAL EXPECTATIONS THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR HAS NOT DIED DOWN, THE DAILY'S FOREIGN POLICY EDITOR ANDREAS UNTERBERGER STATED. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, NOVEMBER 28)

MEXICAN FARMERS OCCUPY AUSTRIAN AMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY

5. THE AUSTRIAN MISSION IN MEXICO CITY WAS OCCUPIED BY A SMALL GROUP OF MEXICAN FARMERS NOVEMBER 25-28, AUSTRIAN RADIO REPORTED. THE GROUP, CONSISTING OF 2 MEN, 2 WOMEN AND ONE CHILD, DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF 48 POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PROTESTED AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF FARMERS BY MEXICAN AUTHORITIES. THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY HAD BEEN CHOSEN AT RANDOM, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE GROUP REPORTEDLY SAID. (ORF NEWS, NOVEMBER 28) LAUDER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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