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DOCUMENT\_ID: 136636751  
INQNO: DOC4D 00424074  
DOCNO: TEL 011169 86  
PRODUCER: BELGRADE  
SOURCE: STATE  
DOCTYPE: IN  
DOR: 19861204  
TOR: 123612  
DOCPREC: O  
ORIGDATE: 198612041602  
MHFNO: 86 3054502  
DOCCLASS: C

HEADER  
OO RUEAIIB  
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
STU6027  
OO RUEHC  
DE RUFHBE #1169/01 3381605  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 041602Z DEC 86  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2174  
INFO RUEBWJA/DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUFHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY 1545  
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 3055  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 6844  
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC PRIORITY 2708  
RUFHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0897  
RUFHMU/AMCONSUL MUNICH PRIORITY 2112  
BT

CONTROLS  
C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 11169

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TEXT  
TAGS: PREL, YO, AU  
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV MILITARY ARCHIVES REVEAL LITTLE ON  
WALDHEIM; OTHER ARCHIVES STILL UNAVAILABLE

REF: (A) BELGRADE 19998, (B) BELGRADE 10843,  
(C) BELGRADE 10790, (D) BELGRADE 5337 (NOTAL)

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: RECORDS IN THE MILITARY HISTORICAL  
ARCHIVES OF YUGOSLAVIA HAVE PROVEN TO HAVE LIMITED  
INFORMATION THAT IS BOTH UNIQUE AND RELEVANT TO THE  
KURT WALDHEIM INVESTIGATION. MOST OF THE GERMAN WAR  
RECORDS IN THE MILITARY HISTORICAL ARCHIVES ARE IN  
FACT COPIES OF MICROFILMED RECORDS FROM THE NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE ONLY UNIQUE HOLDINGS  
OF RELEVANCE ARE POLICE RECORDS OF THE "INDEPENDENT  
STATE OF CROATIA," WHICH POST WILL PHOTOCOPY AND SEND

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EO 12958, 25X  
IPS/CR/IR by [Signature] Date: 8/30/01

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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TO THE DEPARTMENT. EMBASSY EFFORTS TO SEE THE RECORDS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF YUGOSLAVIA HAVE HIT ANOTHER BUREAUCRATIC SNAG, MEANING A FURTHER DELAY IN GAINING ACCESS TO THE RECORDS. END SUMMARY.

3. ON DECEMBER 2, AN EMBASSY OFFICER BEGAN EXAMINING RECORDS IN THE MILITARY HISTORICAL ARCHIVES OF YUGOSLAVIA WHICH MIGHT BE RELEVANT TO THE **KURT WALDHEIM** INVESTIGATION. IT HAS TURNED OUT THAT NEARLY ALL THE DOCUMENTS DESCRIBED AS "CAPTURED GERMAN WAR RECORDS" OF ARMY GROUP E, AND OF THE 714TH INFANTRY DIVISION/114TH JAEGER DIVISION (REF A) ARE MICROFILMED COPIES OF ORIGINAL RECORDS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON, D.C. BECAUSE THEY ARE AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON, THE EMBASSY HAS NOT INVESTIGATED THESE RECORDS FURTHER. THE RELEVANT RECORDS MAY BE FOUND UNDER NATIONAL ARCHIVES NUMBER T-77, T-311, T-313, T-315, AND T-501.

4. THE MILITARY HISTORICAL ARCHIVES HAS COPIES OF OTHER GERMAN RECORDS AS WELL. THEY INCLUDE:

-- GERMAN-LANGUAGE COPIES OF PORTIONS OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE NUREMBERG TRIALS WHICH INVOLVED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ARMY GROUP OF WESTERN BOSNIA. LISTED IN THE MILITARY HISTORICAL ARCHIVES UNDER NUMBER K-41-C, THE RECORDS CARRY THE FOLLOWING NUREMBERG REFERENCE NUMBERS: MILITAERGERICHTSHOF NUMMER V, FALL VII: 24 JULY 1947, M-AG-1-WAHL, M-AG-8-WAHL, M-KH-4-SEIFERT; AND 15 JULY 1947, M-AS-1-SEIFERT. THERE IS ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL FROM THE NUREMBERG TRIALS ON A MICROFILM ROLL WITH THE YUGOSLAV DESIGNATION "MUNICH 7/1", WHICH IS COPIED FROM ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS IN MUNICH.

-- PHOTOCOPIES OF TWO DOCUMENTS FROM A GERMAN ARCHIVE. (N.B. THE ARCHIVIST DOES NOT KNOW WHICH GERMAN ARCHIVE THEY CAME FROM.) EMBOFF BELIEVES THESE RECORDS, DESIGNATED K-2/30 AND K-2/31, TO BE AMONG THE RECORDS THE YUGOSLAV PRESS SAW AND PUBLISHED (REF D). BOTH ARE GERMAN ARMY REPORTS DATED DECEMBER 1943 WHICH DISCUSS RETALIATION AND HOSTAGE-TAKING. THEY BEAR WHAT MAY BE **KURT WALDHEIM'S** INITIALS IN THE LOWER LEFT-HAND CORNER UNDER THE ABBREVIATION "F.D.R." BOTH DOCUMENTS CARRY THE "RECEIVED" STAMP OF THE YUGOSLAV STATE COMMISSION FOR THE DETERMINATION OF WAR CRIMES. POST IS HAVING THEM PHOTOCOPIED.

5. THE ONLY HOLDINGS IN THE MILITARY HISTORICAL ARCHIVES WHICH APPEAR BOTH UNIQUE TO THIS ARCHIVE AND OF INTEREST TO THE WALDHEIM CASE ARE SOME POLICE RECORDS OF THE "INDEPENDENT STATE OF CROATIA." EMBOFF LOOKED AT ORIGINAL RECORDS OF THE DISTRICT POLICE FOR THE BANJA LUKA (BOSNIA) REGION FOR 1942 (CATALOGUED AS ZUPSKA REDARSTVENA OBLAST U BANJA LUCI, NDH K. 164, 165). THESE MOSTLY CROATIAN-LANGUAGE DOCUMENTS INCLUDE RECORDS OF POLICE INVESTIGATIONS, ARRESTS AND THE

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LIKE. THE DOCUMENTS ALSO SHOW INTERACTION BETWEEN SECTION I-C OF THE ARMY GROUP OF WESTERN BOSNIA AND THE LOCAL CROATIAN AUTHORITIES. THEY INCLUDE ORDERS SENT FROM SECTION I-C TO BANJA LUKA POLICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS. THESE DOCUMENTS ARE IN GERMAN. IN THE 1942 RECORDS, THERE ARE FEWER THAN 30 OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH ARE NEARLY ALWAYS ORDERS DEALING WITH THE DISPOSITION OF INDIVIDUAL PRISONERS  
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THAT IS, FURTHER DETENTION, QUESTIONING, TRANSPORTING TO A CAMP, TRANSFER TO ANOTHER JURISDICTION, RELEASE, OR, IN SOME CASES, EXECUTION. THERE ARE ALSO A FEW GERMAN ORDERS FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND ONE ORDER TO CONSCRIPT LOCAL WORKERS FOR SERVICE AT ARMY GROUP HEADQUARTERS. THE GERMAN DOCUMENTS ARE INVARIABLY SIGNED. THE MAJORITY ARE NOT, REPEAT NOT, SIGNED BY WALDHEIM, BUT THERE ARE A FEW WHICH MAY HAVE HIS SIGNATURE. THIS RECORD SERIES ALSO INCLUDES DOCUMENTS WRITTEN IN CROATIAN FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO SECTION I-C OF THE ARMY GROUP. THEY TYPICALLY LIST LOCAL PARTISANS, CHETNIKS AND "SUSPICIOUS PERSONS" OR CONTAIN INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS. THE EMBASSY IS ARRANGING FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 OF THE POLICE AND SECTION I-C RECORDS TO BE PHOTOCOPIED.

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6. EMBOFF HAS EXAMINED ANOTHER UNIQUE YUGOSLAV ARCHIVAL HOLDING WHICH CONSISTS OF STATEMENTS MADE BY CAPTURED GERMAN SOLDIERS OF THE 22ND INFANTRY DIVISION. ABOUT 14 SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS MADE BRIEF STATEMENTS TO THEIR YUGOSLAV CAPTORS DESCRIBING THE MAKE-UP OF THEIR UNITS AND THEIR ROUTE THROUGH GREECE AND YUGOSLAVIA. THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY MATERIAL RELEVANT TO THE WALDHEIM INVESTIGATION.

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7. THE EMBASSY'S ATTEMPTS TO GET ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF YUGOSLAVIA HAVE BEEN SET BACK TEMPORARILY. ARCHIVES STAFF INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT PERMISSION FROM FEDERAL PUBLIC PROSECUTOR WAS REQUIRED TO OPEN WAR-CRIMES FILES. THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES STAFF ASSURED THE EMBASSY THAT THIS WAS A ROUTINE MATTER. FOLLOWING A FEW ADDITIONAL BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS NOT UNUSUAL IN THIS BALKAN COUNTRY, EMBASSY HAND-DELIVERED A WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR ON DECEMBER 4 AND SIMULTANEOUSLY NOTIFIED THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THESE DIFFICULTIES. EMBASSY NOW ANTICIPATES THAT IT WILL GET ACCESS TO THE "WALDHEIM FILE" ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 OR MONDAY, DECEMBER 8.

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ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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