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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA MEDIA REACTION, DEC. 30, 1986

1. A YEAR-IN-REVIEW THINK PIECE IN AUSTRIA'S LARGEST  
NEWSPAPER, KRONEN ZEITUNG, HIGHLIGHTS TECHNOLOGY AT  
ITS BEST AND WORSE:

"WITH A RECORD-SETTING FLIGHT, AIRCRAFT PIONEERS ENDED  
THE YEAR: VOYAGER CIRCLED THE GLOBE WITHOUT RE-FUELING. A  
TECHNOLOGICAL CATASTROPHE STARTED THE YEAR -- THE  
CHALLENGER EXPLOSION -- PLACING THE ENTIRE AMERICAN SPACE  
PROGRAM IN DOUBT. AND IN THE SPRING, TECHNOLOGICAL  
PROGRESS BEAMED INTO OUR LIVES IN A DANGEROUS FORM --  
CHERNOBYL BECAME A SYMBOL FOR FEAR -- A CREEPING THREAT  
THAT CAN'T BE HEARD, SMELLED, OR SEEN -- BUT ONLY  
DETECTED THROUGH THE TICKING OF A GEIGER COUNTER... ALSO  
THIS YEAR, THE U.S. NEWSMAGAZINE 'TIME' SELECTED CORAZON

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AQUINO, WHO GOT RID OF A DICTATORIAL REGIME THROUGH A BLOODLESS REVOLUTION, ITS 'WOMAN OF THE YEAR.' AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT DURING THE YEAR WAS MICHAEL GORBACHEV...IT IS STILL DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHETHER HE WILL BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE SOVIET SYSTEM WITH HIS REFORMS. THE NEW SOVIET STYLE BROUGHT THE AMERICANS TO EMBARRASSMENT AT REYJAVIK, AS A SUPRISED RONALD REAGAN PROMISED MORE THAN HE COULD DELIVER."

2. UNDER THE HEADLINE, "THE PAST AS SOAP OPERA," VIENNA'S PRESTIGIOUS DAILY, DIE PRESSE, IN A YEAR-IN-REVIEW THINK PIECE, WROTE: "IT CONCERNS NOT ONLY WALDHEIM; IT CONCERNS AUSTRIA. GERMANY WAS PUNISHED FOR WHAT IT DID DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR; AUSTRIA NEVER WAS...THE QUINESSENTIAL QUESTION POSED BY A SWEDISH JOURNALIST TO PRESIDENT WALDHEIM'S PRESS SPOKESMAN COVERS THE ACCUSATIONS WITH WHICH AUSTRIA IS CONFRONTED ABROAD: THE HANDSHAKE BETWEEN (DEFENSE MINISTER FRISCHENSCHLAGER AND NAZI WAR CRIMINAL) REDER, THE CONTINUING STORY OF MAUERBACH CONCERNING THE BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS OF FINDING THE JEWISH OWNERS OF PROPERTY CONFISCATED DURING NATIONAL SOCIALISM, THE ELECTION OF 'WAR CRIMINAL' **KURT WALDHEIM**, AS WELL AS THE POLITICAL ASCENDENCY OF THE 'RIGHT-WING EXTREMIST' JORGE HAIDER, HAVE BEEN USED IN OTHER COUNTRIES AS SOURCES OF RECRIMINATION AGAINST AUSTRIA. AT THE VERY LEAST, THESE WILL FORCE AUSTRIA TO AN EXAMINATION OF ITS PAST, WHICH WILL HAVE TO EXCEED WHAT HAS BEEN OCCURRING FOR MANY YEARS."

3. DIE PRESSE ALSO REPORTS ON RECENT STATEMENTS BY ANDREI SAKHAROV. UNDER THE HEADLINE, "SAKHAROV DOUBTS SDI AND CRITICIZES KREMLIN'S REACTION, DIE PRESSE WRITES: "MR. SAKHAROV HAS DOUBTS ABOUT THE THE EFFICIENCY OF SDI, BECAUSE EACH ANTAGONIST WILL SURPASS THE OTHER AS THE NEW TECHNOLOGY IS DEVELOPED." HE NOTES, ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, THAT IT WOULD BE ERROR FOR MOSCOW TO ABANDON OTHER AGREEMENTS SIMPLY BECAUSE NO AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED ON SDI. DENYING REPORTS THAT HIS BANISHMENT WAS ENDED AS A RESULT OF HIS REDUCING HIS CRITICIM OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, SAKHAROV SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, CONSIDERING IT "ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY" THAT ALL "PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE" BE FREED.

4. IN AN EDITORIAL, THE SOCIALIST PARTY DAILY, ARBEITER ZEITUNG, SAYS THE RELEASE OF SAKHAROV HAS BEEN "EMBARRASSING FOR REAGAN. WHILE REAGAN REALLY LIKED SAKHAROV DURING HIS EXILE, HE NOW FINDS HIM AN EMBARRASSMENT, BECAUSE SAKHAROV IS ATTACKING THE PRESIDENT'S FAVORITE PROJECT, SDI." IN REJECTING SDI, SAKHAROV UNDERMINES THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S STRATEGY TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION, THE EDITORIAL SAYS. U.S. POLICY TOWARDS THE EAST WILL NEED TO BE "RE-ORIENTED'" SAYS THE EDITORIAL, NOT ONLY DUE TO THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION, BUT SIMILAR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COMMUNIST WORLD, INCLUDING THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN CHINA AND THE EMERGENCE OF

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THE "SMALL GORBACHEV IN HANOI."

5. "CONTINUING STATE INDEBTEDNESS AND UNPRODUCTIVE CONSOLIDATIONS" HAVE PERSUADED CHRYLSEY CHAIRMAN LEE IACCOCA NOT TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN 1988, SAYS DIE PRESSE. THIS ASSESSMENT REPRESENTS A "SENSE OF REALITY" THAT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND IN THE UNITED STATES, THE PAPER SAYS. "THE WESTERN SUPERPOWER NEEDS MANY IACOCAS, SAYS DIE PRESSE. HIS "HOPELESS" ASSESSMENT OF THE U.S.  
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ADMIN

END OF MESSAGE

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