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DOCUMENT_ID: 30971479
INQNO: DOC5D 00599036
DOCNO: TEL 001966 87
PRODUCER: MANAMA
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: OTHER
DOR: 19870429
TOR: 082550
DOCPREC: O
ORIGDATE: 198704291223
MHFNO: 87 4637129
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER

OO RUEAIIB
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
UTS7963
OO RUEHC
DE RUEHMA #1966 1191223
ZNR UUUUU
O 291223Z APR 87
FM USIA MANAMA
TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUFHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
RUEHDH/AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
RUEHDO/AMEMBASSY DOHA
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH
RUFHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH
RUFHNS/AMEMBASSY SANAA
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL
BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS MANAMA 01966

USIS

USINFO FOR P/M, P/RM, P/FW AND NEA

STATE FOR NEA/ARP

MACDILL FOR USIA ADVISER BRIAN BELL

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WALDHEIM

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE "GULF DAILY NEWS" APRIL 29 CARRIED THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ON WALDHEIM VISA DENIAL: "AMERICA'S MOVE TO PLACE KURT WALDHEIM ON ITS 'WATCH LIST' COULD SET SEAL ON THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT'S FATE. ALREADY SILENTLY SHUNNED BY MOST WORLD GOVERNMENTS, THIS U.S ACTION IS THE FIRST MAJOR OPEN REBUKE OF WALDHEIM -

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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SUSPECTED OF PERIPHERAL INVOLVEMENT IN NAZI WAR CRIMES. OTHERS MAY FOLLOW. AS U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL, WALDHEIM WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR PEACE - PARTICULARLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AND ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM HAVE NEVER BEEN BORNE OUT BY EVIDENCE - EVEN AFTER RIGOROUS PROBES BY SIMON WEIZENTHAL'S NAZI HUNTERS. THEREFORE, BY CONDEMNING HIM PUBLICLY, WASHINGTON MAY BE ACTING PREMATURELY. THEIR UNPRECEDENTED INITIATIVE AGAINST A HEAD OF STATE IS ALSO A SMACK IN THE FACE FOR AUSTRIAN DEMOCRACY AND SOME WOULD EVEN SAY A CONTRAVENTION OF THE VERY BASIC PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AMERICA IS USUALLY SO EAGER TO UPHOLD."
O'LEARY

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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