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FOR P/R, P/M, P/PFN, P/FW, P/FN, VOA/BXN,
VOA/BRN:ARABIC, NEA; MACDILL FOR USIA ADVISER BRIAN
BELL AND POLAD

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: KURT WALDHEIM: APRIL 29, 1987

1. SUMMARY:

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--FOUR EDITORIALS AND ONE COMMENTARY UNIFORMLY CONDEMN STATE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO DENY AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT WALDHEIM A U.S. VISA, AND CITE "ZIONIST PRESSURES" AS THE ROOT CAUSE. END OF SUMMARY.

2. EDITORIALS/COMMENTARY:

IN AN EDITORIAL AL NADWA REMARKS: "WASHINGTON'S DECISION TO BAR THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT FROM ENTERING THE U.S. SEEMS IRRATIONAL. IT IS ONE OF THE MANY DECISIONS WHEREBY THE U.S. HAS YIELDED TO ZIONIST PRESSURES WITHOUT BENEFIT TO ITSELF...WASHINGTON ONLY CONFIRMS, THROUGH SUCH A DECISION, THAT THE U.S. IS A SUPERPOWER ENTRAPPED IN THE TENTACLES OF THE ZIONIST OCTOPUS."

AL SHARQ AL AWSAT'S EDITORIAL ENTITLED "AMERICA AND ZIONIST PRESSURE" COMMENTS: "REGARDLESS OF THE CLAIMS AND THE REASONS BEHIND THE AMERICAN DECISION (TO BAR WALDHEIM FROM ENTERING THE U.S.), IT IS AN INDISPUTABLE FACT THAT THE AUSTRIANS ELECTED WALDHEIM AS THEIR PRESIDENT AFTER IT WAS PROVEN THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM WERE UNTRUE. THESE CHARGES ARE MERELY A ZIONIST CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO TAKE REVENGE AGAINST THE MAN WHO SUPPORTED ARAB RIGHTS WHEN HE WAS U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL."

JASIR AL JASIR WRITES IN AL JAZIRA A COMMENTARY ENTITLED "WALDHEIM, ONCE MORE" SAYING: "THIS TIME AUSTRIAN DISCONTENT AND ANGER ARE NOT JUST DIRECTED AGAINST ZIONISTS AND ISRAELIS BUT ALSO AGAINST AMERICANS AND THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION...AUSTRIANS WILL NOT ALLOW THEIR PRESIDENT TO BE REPRIMANDED SIMPLY BECAUSE HE HAD REFUSED TO SUCCUMB TO ZIONIST PRESSURES WHEN HE WAS U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL. NOW ZIONISTS WANT TO PUNISH WALDHEIM, USING A BIG COUNTRY WHICH CLAIMS ITSELF 'THE DEFENDER OF DEMOCRACY AND THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO VOTE'...TODAY THIS SAME COUNTRY IS INSULTING THE WILL OF A FREE PEOPLE WHO DEMOCRATICALLY CHOSE THEIR PRESIDENT."

RIYADH DAILY IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE JEWS AND WALDHEIM" WRITES: "THE DECISION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT... PROVES THAT THE ZIONISTS WILL TAKE A LONG, LONG TIME TO GET RID OF THE HANGOVER OF THE HOLOCAUST...IN FACT THE ZIONISTS ARE USING THIS EXCUSE FOR PROPAGANDA TO GAIN SYMPATHY, WHICH THEY ALREADY HAVE RECEIVED IN AMPLE MEASURE...IT IS A PITY THAT PRESIDENT WALDHEIM HAS TO SUFFER THIS TRAGIC FATE. BUT THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM REFLECTS THE THROTTLING GRIP OF THE ZIONISTS ON AMERICAN OPINION."

IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "AN INCREDIBLE DECISION" ARAB NEWS ADDS: "THE DECISION CONTRAVENES BASIC PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE. THE U.S. HAS PRESENTED NO EVIDENCE THAT WALDHEIM WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ATROCITIES DURING WORLD WAR II. NO LESS UNFORTUNATE FOR THE AMERICAN CASE IS THE FACT THAT THERE ARE

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SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF EX-NAZIS ACTUALLY LIVING IN THE U.S. IN THE FULL KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF THE U.S. AUTHORITIES. THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH BEHIND THE AMERICAN DECISION IS THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DECISION, HAS GIVEN INTO A WELL-ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN MOUNTED AGAINST WALDHEIM FOR PURELY POLITICAL REASONS BY THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 RIYADH 04383

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A CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS BEEN AIDED AND ABETTED BY THE AMERICAN JEWISH LOBBY. IT HAS ALL THE HALLMARKS OF A VENDETTA."

3. HEADLINES:

AL JAZIRA: "GENERAL DISMAY AND CONSTERNATION IN AUSTRIA. VIENNA CALLS BACK ITS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON AND CONDEMNS THE AMERICAN DECISION."

AL RIYADH: "FIRST (U.S.) DECISION OF ITS KIND AGAINST A TOP OFFICIAL FROM A FRIENDLY STATE."

AL BILAD: "AMIDST AUSTRIAN ASTONISHMENT, WASHINGTON FORBIDS WALDHEIM FROM ENTERING THE U.S."

4. COVERAGE:

MOST PAPERS GIVE SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE ON THE AUSTRIAN REACTION TO WASHINGTON'S DECISION TO BAR WALDHEIM. ARTICLES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES FOCUS ON VIENNA'S OFFICIAL CONDEMNATION AND SUBSEQUENT WITHDRAWAL OF ITS AMBASSADOR FROM WASHINGTON. MILLER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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