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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, AU, YO
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV REACTION TO U.S. DECISION ON
- WALDHEIM
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1. (U) THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN NO OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV REACTION TO THE UNITED STATES DECISION TO PLACE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** ON THE VISA "WATCH-LIST" FOR HIS ACTIVITIES IN WORLD WAR II, INCLUDING OPERATIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA. NEITHER HAS THERE BEEN EDITORIAL COMMENT ABOUT THE DECISION IN THE YUGOSLAV PRESS. THE PRESS HAS REPORTED BOTH THE AMERICAN ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE AUSTRIAN REACTION IN SOME DETAIL. IN A STORY RUN APRIL 29, THE BELGRADE DAILY "POLITIKA," QUOTING "THE NEW YORK TIMES," SAID THAT THE DECISION ON WALDHEIM WAS BASED IN PART ON WALDHEIM'S ROLE IN THE DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM BANJA LUKA (N.B. BANJA LUKA IS IN PRESENT-DAY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA), ON HIS ROLE IN THE DEPORTATION OF 484 YUGOSLAV CIVILIANS TO FORCED-LABOR CAMPS IN NORWAY, AND ON HIS PART IN THE MASSACRE OF UNARMED CIVILIANS IN KOZARA.

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2. (U) "BORBA", THE DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE SOCIALIST ALLIANCE OF WORKING PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA (SAWPY), CARRIED A STORY APRIL 29 WHICH SAID THAT ACCORDING TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, NEW DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE AGAINST WALDHEIM HAD BEEN FOUND IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN WASHINGTON AND IN YUGOSLAVIA. "BORBA" SAID THAT THE NEW DOCUMENTS SHOWED THAT WALDHEIM WAS A LIAISON OFFICER WITH THE ITALIAN "PUSTERIA" DIVISION, NOTING THAT THE "PUSTERIA" DIVISION WAS WELL-KNOWN TO YUGOSLAVS FOR ITS CRIMINAL DEEDS IN MONTENEGRO, HERZEGOVINA AND DALMATIA IN MAY, 1942. ACCORDING TO "BORBA", THE NEW DOCUMENTS ALSO REVEALED WALDHEIM'S PART IN THE DEPORTATION OF YUGOSLAV CIVILIANS TO NORWAY AND THE DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM VARIOUS SITES IN BOSNIA. THE "BORBA" ARTICLE MENTIONED THE 1986 VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA OF NEAL SHER, THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

3. (C) COMMENT: YUGOSLAVIA HAS BEEN AMBIVALENT ABOUT THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR SINCE THE STORY BROKE LAST YEAR. WHILE OUTRAGED OVER WALDHEIM'S ROLE IN THE WAR IN THE BALKANS, YUGOSLAVS VALUE THEIR GOOD-NEIGHBOR RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA AND HAVE NOT WANTED TO BE OUT IN FRONT ON THE WALDHEIM ISSUE. DESPITE THE OFFICIAL SILENCE ON THE U.S. DECISION ON WALDHEIM, WE BELIEVE MOST YUGOSLAVS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT ARE FINDING IT A CAUSE FOR GRIM SATISFACTION.
PRESEL

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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