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JUSTICE FOR GALEBACH/DUNLOP AND SHER

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA MEDIA REACTION

1. WALDHEIM ON WATCH LIST: "DIE PRESSE" REPORTED IN ITS LEAD STORY TODAY THAT THE AUSTRIAN COALITION PARTIES DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO AFTER THE SHOCK CAUSED BY THE U.S. DECISION AGAINST WALDHEIM. IT STILL HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED WHETHER CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY SHOULD VISIT THE U.S. IN THE SECOND HALF OF MAY, AS SCHEDULED. WHILE THE SOCIALIST PARTY IS ABSOLUTELY OF THE OPINION THAT WALDHEIM SHOULD SUE U.S. MEDIA, THE PEOPLE'S PARTY THINKS THAT THIS WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. PEOPLE'S PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL MICHAEL GRAFF HAS POINTED OUT

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THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL MEESE ACTED IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AND, THEREFORE, CANNOT BE SUED. GRAFF ADDED THAT IF WALDHEIM SUED THE NEXT U.S. JOURNALIST CALLING HIM A WAR CRIMINAL, THE CONSEQUENCE WOULD BE THAT THIS AFFAIR WOULD AGAIN BE PLAYED UP BY THE MEDIA. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OPPOSITION FREEDOM PARTY, JORG HAIDER, HAS CRITICIZED AMBASSADOR THOMAS KLESTIL, CALLING IT STRANGE THAT KLESTIL FOR A LONG TIME WAS IN THE DARK REGARDING THE PROCESS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. HAIDER SAID IT OUGHT TO BE EXAMINED WHETHER KLESTIL HAS LIVED UP TO HIS DUTY. ACCORDING TO THE "NEUE AZ," KLESTIL WILL REMAIN AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON AND NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO VIENNA TO BECOME THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AS HAD BEEN PLANNED LONG BEFORE.

SPEAKING IN THE PROVINCE OF BURGENLAND ON WEDNESDAY, WALDHEIM SAID IT IS UNBELIEVABLE THAT "A FREE, DEMOCRATIC STATE COULD MAKE SUCH A DECISION" AS THE U.S. HAS. WALDHEIM USED HIS VISIT TO THE BURGENLAND TO VISIT A JEWISH MUSEUM IN EISENSTADT.

THE MAIN HEADLINE IN TODAY'S "KURIER" READ: "WALDHEIM WAS NOT INVOLVED IN ACTIONS AGAINST JEWS." THE PAPER WAS THUS REFERRING TO A STATEMENT BY THE ISRAELI HUNTER OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS, TUWIA FRIEDMANN, WHO SAID THAT HE DID NOT FIND ANY FILES WHICH WOULD INCRIMINATE WALDHEIM, NEITHER IN WASHINGTON NOR IN EUROPE. FRIEDMANN EXPLICITLY DISSOCIATED HIMSELF OF WHAT HE CALLED THE "WITCH DANCE" PERFORMED BY SECRETARY GENERAL ISRAEL SINGER OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS.

THE "KURIER" POINTED OUT THAT, IF WALDHEIM FILED A LAWSUIT, THERE WOULD BE THE PROBLEM OF WHO WOULD DEFRAY THE EXORBITANT EXPENSES. THE SAME PAPER WROTE: "IT HAS LEAKED OUT THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL ED MEESE UNTIL LAST FRIDAY WANTED TO MAKE A DECISION WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN RATHER FAVORABLE FOR WALDHEIM, BUT THAT HE CHANGED HIS MIND UNDER PRESSURE BY SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ. IF THIS IS SO, THIS WOULD BE A BAD OMEN FOR AUSTRIA'S SITUATION IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS."

THE "KRONEN-ZEITUNG" REPORTED THAT INDIGNATION IN AUSTRIA AT THE U.S. RULING IS SO IMMENSE THAT VRANITZKY IS POSTPONING HIS DECISION WHETHER HE SHOULD PAY HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON. HE FIRST WANTS EMOTIONS TO SUBSIDE. BEHIND THE SCENES, ONE HEARS, HOWEVER, THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAD BETTER NOT MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN AUSTRIA'S VIEWPOINT, THE "KRONEN-ZEITUNG" ASSERTED. THIS MEANS THAT VRANITZKY WILL TRAVEL, THE PAPER ADDED. THE SAME PAPER POINTED OUT THAT THEIR COMMON REJECTION OF THE ANTI-WALDHEIM DECISION HAS LED TO A RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN AUSTRIA'S COALITION PARTIES.

ACCORDING TO THE "NEUE AZ," PEOPLE'S PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL GRAFF HAS ANNOUNCED THAT, ON THEIR RECEIPT IN

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AUSTRIA, THE U.S. DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE WALDHEIM CASE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION OF HISTORIANS WHICH HAD INVESTIGATED THE CHARGES ALREADY LAST YEAR.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT: UNDER THE FRONT PAGE HEADLINE "KAFKA," DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR HANS RAUSCHER WROTE IN THE INDEPENDENT, MASS-CIRCULATION DAILY "KURIER": "IT HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE OBVIOUS THAT KURT WALDHEIM CANNOT ACCEPT THE U.S. NO-ENTRY DECISION LYING DOWN. HE MUST UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 06853

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USE ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO OBTAIN THE LIFTING OF THIS PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURE. THIS WILL BE EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT. THE CASE REMINDS US OF (FRANZ) KAFKA'S NOVEL 'THE TRIAL.' THE DEFENDANT IS NEITHER CONFRONTED WITH CONCRETE CHARGES NOR CAN HE EXPRESS HIS OBJECTIONS. HOW SHALL WALDHEIM PROVE NOW THAT HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION WHERE HE COULD HAVE ORDERED THE DEPORTATION OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS AND THAT, CONCRETELY, HE HAS NOT EVEN MADE NE SINGLE TRUCK AVAILABLE FOR THAT? NEVERTHELESS, AN EFFORT WILL HAVE TO BE MADE. WE KNOW NOW THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT INSISTED ON A DECISION AGAINST WALDHEIM. THIS AFFECTS AUSTRIA IN ITS ENTIRETY. THIS WILL BE A TREMENDOUSLY TOILSOME WAY, BUT WE MUST GO IT."

THE "KURIER" ON PAGE 2 CARRIED A SECOND EDITORIAL, ENTITLED "DANGEROUS SHOCK." RUTH PAULI WROTE: "FEDERAL PRESIDENT WALDHEM, AN ACTIVE MAN, WILL HAVE TO TAKE ACTION ON BEHALF OF CITIZEN WALDHEIM AND PERHAPS AT LAST LISTEN TO THE ADVICE OF WELL-MEANING AND EXPERIENCED PERSONS WHO HAVE SUGGESTED THAT HE SUE. AND HE SHOULD LET A COMMISSION OF MILITARY HISTORIANS CORROBORATE HIS AFFIRMATIONS THAT HIS CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR. MEANWHILE, AUSTRIA'S POLITICAL PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD NEITHER GET DEPRESSED NOR TRY AND POLISH UP A CUTE IMAGE OF AUSTRIA. WE MUST DEMONSTRATE NOW WHAT PRESENT-DAY AUSTRIA REALLY IS -- A CAPABLE, CREDIT-WORTHY COUNTRY IN THE CONCERT OF THE WESTERN WORLD."

IN A PAGE 3 EDITORIAL "EVERYTHING FORGOTTEN," DIETER KINDERMANN WROTE IN THE INDEPENDENT, MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID "KRONEN-ZEITUNG": "WHEN THE STRUGGLE FOR ENTRY

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INTO THE WHITE HOUSE IS DRAWING NEAR, AMERICA'S POLITICIANS BEHAVE LIKE THE BULL IN A CHINASHOP. THEY FORGET THE BEST FRIENDSHIPS AND ABANDON THE FIRREST PRINCIPLES. AND THIS IS COMPOUNDED BY THE AMERICANS' TRADITIONALLY INSUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY. IT WILL BE IMPERATIVE, THEREFORE, THAT WE REMIND THE U.S. POLITICANS OF WHAT AUSTRIA SINCE 1945 HAS BEEN DOING FOR THE FREE WESTERN WORLD. WASHINGTON WILL PERHAPS REMEMBER THAT, IN THE HEART OF EUROPE AT THE CROSSROADS OF EAST AND WEST, THERE IS A SMALL, FREE COUNTRY WHICH TIME AND TIME AGAIN HAS DEMONSTRATED THE COURAGE OF ITS CONVICTIONS. AFTER WORLD WAR II, AUSTRIA FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF EAST BLOC REFUGEES HAS BEEN THE GATE TO THE WEST, THE GATE TO FREEDOM. IT IS NOT TYPICAL AUSTRIAN MENTALITY TO TALK BIG ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR THE WORLD. BUT NOW, WHEN WE FEEL BETRAYED BY OUR BEST FRIENDS AND SOLD DOWN THE RIVER, WE SHOULD MUSTER ENOUGH PRIDE TO POINT THIS OUT A LITTLE BIT LOUDER THAN USUAL." KOHL

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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