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TEXT

TAGS: ECPS, PREL, CA, AU, XF, ETRD, ECON  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION--AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT KURT  
WALDHEIM; MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE; OMNIBUS TRADE BILL

1. THE U.S. DECISION TO PLACE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT KURT WALDHEIM ON A WATCH LIST OF UNDESIRABLE ALIENS WAS THE SUBJECT OF TWO EDITORIALS IN MAY 1 PAPERS. GLOBE AND MAIL EDIT ENTITLED "ABOUT MR. WALDHEIM" SAID IN PART:
2. "AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT KURT WALDHEIM IS FINDING, TO HIS

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MANUFACTURED SHOCK AND DISMAY, THAT A GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE NO DESIRE TO BREAK BREAD WITH HIM. HAVING HIDDEN ASPECTS OF HIS PAST FROM PUBLIC SCRUTINY UNTIL THEY BECAME TOO OBVIOUS TO IGNORE, HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY PEOPLE ARE SKEPTICAL WHEN HE SAYS HE IS NOT A WAR CRIMINAL.... THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT A NATION MUST ACCEPT; IF CANADA HAS A PARTICULAR PROBLEM IN THIS REGARD, IT HAS BEEN ITS RELUCTANCE TO REJECT QUESTIONABLE ENVOYS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.... MR. WALDHEIM HIMSELF, WHO BECAME AUSTRIA'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO OTTAWA IN 1956, EVEN THOUGH CANADA HAD SAT ON THE UN WAR CRIMES COMMISSION WHICH IN 1948 GAVE THE FORMER GERMAN ARMY LIEUTENANT THE HIGHEST CLASSIFICATION AS A SUSPECTED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL....

3. "WHEN HE IMPORES THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE TO BELIEVE THAT 'I HAVE A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, YOU CAN TRUST ME,' HE ASKS FOR A TRUST HE HAS NOT EARNED.... THE EVIDENCE MAY NOT BE ENOUGH FOR A COURT OF LAW, BUT IT WILL NOT BE WASHED AWAY BY HIS PROTESTS THAT HE DID NOTHING OF THE SORT, ANY MORE THAN IT WAS WASHED AWAY BY HIS INSISTENCE, UNTIL LAST YEAR, THAT HE WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE GERMAN ARMY AFTER SUFFERING A WAR WOUND ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT IN 1941...."

4. TORONTO SUN EDIT ENTITLED "NOT WELCOME" OPINED IN PART:

5. ".... WALDHEIM, BY HIS ACTIONS...IS INSULTING THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE. THE INSULT BEGAN WITH THE LIE AND CONTINUES WITH THE BLUSTER. WALDHEIM MAY INDEED BE INNOCENT. BUT HIS ACTIONS SHOW THAT HE'S FAILED UTTERLY TO APPRECIATE THE ENORMITY OF THE HOLOCAUST - THE GRUESOME BACKGROUND TO THIS AFFAIR MASTERMINDED BY THE NAZIES HE SERVED IN WORLD WAR II. WHY, YOU MAY ASK, IS ISRAEL TAKING A SOFTER LINE? THE OFFICIAL STANCE THERE IS THAT THE EVIDENCE IS INCONCLUSIVE. HE WON'T BE BARRED FROM ISRAEL. A PARADOX? NO. AUSTRIA IS AN IMPORTANT WAY-STATION FOR JEWISH REFUGEES FROM THE EAST BLOCK ON THEIR WAY TO ISRAEL. THE CORRIDOR TO FREEDOM MUST STAY OPEN.

6. "MEANWHILE, CANADA AND THE U.S. HAVE EMBARKED ON A HISTORIC CENSURE AGAINST THE HEAD OF A FRIENDLY STATE. THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DEMANDED AN EXPLANATION FROM OTTAWA. WHAT CHEEK? NO EXPLANATION IS NEEDED. HIS ATTEMPT TO SHARE HIS GUILT WITH EVERY VETERAN OF GERMANY'S WORLD WAR II FORCES IS ABSURD...."

7. ON THE PROSPECTS OF A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE IN THE NEAR FUTURE, OTTAWA CITIZEN EDIT ENTITLED "MIDEAST HIATUS" SAID IN PART:

8. "THE BIG QUESTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST TODAY IS WHETHER THE HARDLINE REUNIFICATION OF THE PLO WILL BRING A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE NEARER OR MOVE IT FURTHER AWAY. BOTH SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT PRESENT PLAUSIBLE ARGUMENTS TO

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BACK THEIR CONVICTIONS. OVERLYING ALL SPECULATION IS THE FUNDAMENTAL CLASH BETWEEN ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER OVER THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AS AN UMBRELLA FOR DIRECT ISRAELI-JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN TALKS.... UNDERLYING THE CONFERENCE ISSUE IS THE ALMOST CERTAIN COLLAPSE OF ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IF THE MOMENTUM FOR UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 03709

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IT BECOMES IRRESISTABLE. THAT, IN TURN, WOULD MEAN A GENERAL ELECTION IN ISRAEL TO DETERMINE WHO SHOULD FORM THE NEXT GOVERNMENT THERE....

9. "THOSE WHO SUPPORT PERES DOUBTLESS NOW CLAIM THAT THE HARDENING OF THE PLO COULD INCREASE THE PROSPECTS FOR A DIFFERENT TYPE OF MEETING WHERE PLO APPROVAL WOULD NOT BE SOUGHT, NOR THAT OF MOSCOW. NATURALLY, THERE COULD BE SUCH A GET-TOGETHER BUT ITS VIABILITY AND RELEVANCE TO AN ACCEPTABLE AND LASTING PALESTINIAN SETTLEMENT WOULD BE SERIOUSLY IN DOUBT. ANOTHER POSSIBLE OUTCOME TO THE CURRENT FLURRY OF ACTIVITY IS AN ISRAEL-JORDAN AGREEMENT OF SOME SORT, POSSIBLY ALONG THE LINES OF THE EGYPT-ISRAEL ONE.... ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT UNLESS THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION BOTH THROW THEIR FULL WEIGHT BEHIND THE PROCESS - AND IN THE SAME DIRECTION - THE RESULTS WON'T BRING ABOUT A LASTING SOLUTION TO THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF THE LONG-SUFFERING PALESTINIANS, LET ALONE THOSE OF THE ISRAELIS."

10. TORONTO STAR CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENTING ON YESTERDAY'S PASSAGE OF THE OMNIBUS TRADE BILL IN THE HOUSE. EXCERPTS FROM "CONGRESS PLAYS WITH TRADE FIRE" INCLUDE:

11. "SOME DAYS THE U.S. CONGRESS MAKES US THANKFUL FOR THE PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN.... REAGAN CAN BE COUNTED ON TO VETO THE BILL, IF THE SENATE DOESN'T DRASTICALLY AMEND IT. BUT THE BILL IS WORRISOME NONETHELESS BECAUSE IT IS JUST THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF ATTEMPTS BY CONGRESS TO BLAME OTHER COUNTRIES FOR THE PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN TRADE.... TO ITS CREDIT, THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZES THAT THE DETERIORATION IN THE U.S. POSITION HAS BEEN TOO SWIFT AND TOO PERVASIVE TO LEND ANY CREDENCE TO THE NOTION THAT IT IS THE RESULT OF UNFAIR TRADING PRACTICES BY CANADA, JAPAN OR ANYONE

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ELSE....

12. "BUT CONGRESS IS APPARENTLY DETERMINED TO FIND A SCAPEGOAT FOR THE U.S. TRADE DEFICIT RATHER THAN CORRECT THE DOMESTIC POLICIES THAT UNDERLIE IT. THAT IS THE AIM OF THE SO-CALLED GEPHARDT AMENDMENT.... ALTHOUGH CANADA HAS THE SECOND LARGEST (AFTER JAPAN) TRADE SURPLUS WITH THE U.S., IT WOULD ESCAPE THIS AMENDMENT BECAUSE OUR SURPLUS IS NOT 'EXCESSIVE AND UNWARRANTED' WHEN MEASURED AGAINST THE TOTAL VOLUME OF CANADA-U.S. TRADE. BUT THAT EXEMPTION WOULD PROVIDE LITTLE COMFORT BECAUSE, IF THE MEASURE WERE TO BECOME LAW, IT COULD PROVOKE AN ALL-OUT GLOBAL TRADE WAR, ECONOMIC STAGNATION, AND PERHAPS ANOTHER DEPRESSION. A CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE DEAL...WOULD BE LITTLE HELP IN SUCH A SITUATION BECAUSE IT WOULD GIVE US ACCESS ONLY TO A SHRUNKEN U.S. MARKET. WE ARE FOOLING OURSELVES IF WE THINK A BILATERAL DEAL WILL PROTECT US FROM WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE REST OF THE WORLD."  
THURBER

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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