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TEXT

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: "WALDHEIM CASE: FIELD DAY FOR THE  
PHARISEES"

COMMENTARY WITH THIS TITLE IN ZURICH SONNTAGS-ZEITUNG BY  
POLITICAL EDITOR HANS O. STAUB: (BEGIN EXTRACTS) WHY  
WASHINGTON TOOK SUCH A LONG TIME TO GET AROUND TO BANNING  
WALDHEIM IS UNCLEAR. AND WHY THE UNITED STATES SHOULD  
APPLY STRICTER STANDARDS TO AN AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT THAN IT  
HAS DONE TO MANY OTHER PEOPLE WITH A DOUBTFUL PAST IS  
EQUALLY PUZZLING. THE U.S. HAS LET IN MUCH SHADIER  
FIGURES IN THE PAST, MARCOS BEING A RECENT EXAMPLE.

MANY ASPECTS OF THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR LOOK LIKE SHEER  
HYPOCRISY; THE PHARISEES ARE HAVING A FIELD DAY. WHETHER

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FIRST LIEUTENANT WALDHEIM, KURT, WAS REALLY GUILTY OF DEPORTING JEWS IN THE 1940'S CAN PROBABLY NEVER BE ESTABLISHED WITH COMPLETE OBJECTIVITY. HOWEVER, HIS OBSTINATE LYING ABOUT HIS PAST GIVES GROUNDS FOR DOUBT. DOUBTS, FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT THE DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL SKILL OF THE EX-UN SECRETARY-GENERAL. NO ONE COULD HAVE HANDLED THE CASE IN A MORE DENSE AND CLUMSY MANNER THAN HE HAS. DURING HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN HE ENDORSED THE IDEA OF HAVING A NEUTRAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE MATTER, BUT NOTHING MORE HAS BEEN HEARD OF IT. LATER HE SAID HE WOULD PRODUCE HIS OWN "WHITE BOOK," BUT IT HAS YET TO APPEAR. WHEN IT WAS SUGGESTED HE SHOULD DEFEND HIMSELF LEGALLY AGAINST THE "CALUMNIES," HE SAID HE WAS "TOO PROUD" TO DO THAT.

SUCH ARROGANCE WILL DOUBTLESS EARN HIM KUDOS FROM MANY OF HIS FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN. A RECRUDESCENCE OF THE AFFAIR COULD BRING HIM DOMESTIC POLITICAL ADVANTAGES IN PROMOTING NATIONAL SOLIDARITY. BUT IT WILL BE OTHERWISE ABROAD; AMERICA'S DECISION WILL HARDLY HELP AUSTRIA'S PRESIDENT TO FULFILL HIS PROPER REPRESENTATIONAL ROLE AND MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

SO WALDHEIM MUST BE A LONELY MAN TODAY AS HE SITS IN THE VIENNA HOFBURG AND WAITS FOR INVITATIONS TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISITS ABROAD. INVITATIONS THAT WILL NEVER ARRIVE--OR WILL COME, AS SPARSE CONSOLATION PRIZES, FROM UNIMPORTANT COUNTRIES. (END EXTRACTS) (5/3/87) HENZE

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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