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TEXT

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, GE, AV
SUBJECT: BAVARIAN REACTION TO WALDHEIM DECISION
VERY NEGATIVE

1. SUMMARY: BAVARIAN REACTION TO THE DECISION TO PUT AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT WALDHEIM ON THE VISA LOOKOUT LIST HAS BEEN UNIVERSALLY NEGATIVE. THE HARSHTEST CRITICISM CAME IN THE CSU'S BAYERNKURIER, NORMALLY FRIENDLY TO THE US AND CRITICAL OF WALDHEIM.

2. THE CSU'S PARTY ORGAN, THE WEEKLY BAYERNKURIER, EXPRESSED SHOCKED DISMAY AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD PLACED AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM'S** NAME ON THE VISA LOOKOUT LIST. THE BAYERNKURIER EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT OVER THE TIMING OF THE DECISION (WALDHEIM WAS NOT PLANNING TO VISIT THE US) AND THE LEGAL DETERMINATION THAT THE BAN DID NOT APPLY TO HIM AS CHIEF OF STATE ("THERE MAY BE A POSSIBLE LEGAL DISTINCTION TO BE MADE, BUT FROM A POLITICAL OR DIPLOMATIC POINT OF VIEW ... ABSOLUTELY

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NOT"). THE CSU PAPER ALSO QUESTIONED WHY THE US GOVERNMENT HAD NOT MADE PUBLIC THE INFORMATION ON WHICH IT BASED ITS FINDINGS, AND ASKED IF IN THE US THE OLD RULE OF A PERSON BEING PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY NO LONGER APPLIED. FURTHER, THE PAPER ASKED, DOESN'T THE US GOVERNMENT REALIZE THAT ITS DECISION WAS TAKEN IN "GROSS DISREGARD" TO THE DEMOCRATIC WILL OF THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE"? THE AUSTRIAN STATE, WITH ITS LONG POLITICAL HISTORY DOES NOT NEED THIS KIND OF LESSON FROM THE USA, THE PAPER WENT ON.

3. IN ANY CASE, THE PAPER CONCLUDES, ALL AUSTRIA'S NEIGHBORS (BAVARIA CLEARLY INCLUDED) ARE ASKING, "COULD ONE IMAGINE GREATER GRATUITOUS INSULT? IS GREATER DIPLOMATIC INCOMPETENCE POSSIBLE? HAS AMERICA COMPLETELY LOST ITS SENSE?"

4. COMMENT: THE BAYERNKURIER'S CRITICISM OF THE US DECISION IS SOME OF THE HARSHEST LANGUAGE WE CAN RECALL FROM A PAPER WHICH USUALLY GOES TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO BE POSITIVE IN ITS TREATMENT OF THE US AND ITS POLICIES. IT IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY SINCE THE BAVARIAN CSU LEADERSHIP HAS NEVER MADE MUCH OF A SECRET OF ITS LESS THAN POSITIVE OPINION OF WALDHEIM AS AUSTRIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER OR AS UN SECRETARY GENERAL. THE COMMENTS DO NOT COME, THEN, BECAUSE THE CSU FEELS A DEAR OLD FRIEND HAS BEEN SULLIED. IN ADDITION TO THE BAYERNKURIER ARTICLE THE CONSULATE HAS NOTED LOCAL DISPLEASURE AND DISAGREEMENT WITH THE DECISION EXPRESSED THROUGH A HALF DOZEN PHONE CALLS AND ONE LETTER FROM A BALKAN CAMPAIGN VETERANS GROUP, ALL OF WHICH CRITICIZED THE US DECISION. NELSON

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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