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CONTROLS

UNCLAS VIENNA 07047

STATE FOR EUR/CE, INR/WEA AND INR/P
USIA FOR EU
USDOC FOR IEP/EUR OWE FOR P. COMBE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.82/87, FOR 05/05/87

1. WALDHEIM DETERMINED TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST
SLANDER:

IN AN INTERVIEW ON NATIONAL TV, PRESIDENT KURT WALDHEIM

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3028
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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YESTERDAY SAID HE WAS DETERMINED TO TAKE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE CONTINUING INTERNATIONAL SLANDER AGAINST HIM. WALDHEIM SAID HIS LAWYERS IN THE U.S. WERE CURRENTLY EXPLORING THE MOST EFFECTIVE STEPS. HE INDICATED HE MIGHT SUE U.S. AND AUSTRIAN MEDIA FOR DEFAMATION. (PAPERS WROTE THAT WALDHEIM EXPECTS THE GOA TO FINANCE THE LAW SUIT IN THE U.S.. THIS HAS BEEN REJECTED BY SPO POLITICIANS). ASKED WHY HE HAD NOT TAKEN ANY LEGAL INITIATIVES EARLIER, WALDHEIM SAID HIS AMERICAN LAWYER FELT THIS COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE PENDING "WATCH-LIST" DECISION. AMONG FURTHER STEPS, WALDHEIM MENTIONED HIS PLAN TO NOMINATE AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF MILITARY HISTORIANS TO EXAMINE HIS ROLE IN WW II, AS WELL AS THE PRESENTATION OF A "WHITE BOOK" DOCUMENTING HIS WARTIME ACTIVITIES. (EDITORIALS NOTED THAT THIS "WHITE BOOK" WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE A VERY CONVINCING COUNTERMEASURE, AND THAT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PRESENTED MUCH EARLIER). (ALL PAPERS, MAY 5, ORF NEWS, MAY 4)

2. FURTHER REACTIONS:

-AUSTRIAN RADIO THIS MORNING CITED A U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL AS SAYING WALDHEIM WAS FREE TO SUE IN THE U.S.. (ORF NEWS, MAY 5)
-DURING CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY'S VISIT TO HOLLAND, DUTCH PM RUUD LUBBERS AND FM HANS VAN DEN BROEK REPORTEDLY SIGNALLED THEIR COUNTRY'S INTEREST IN A "FULL CLARIFICATION" OF ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR. (ORF NEWS, MAY 4)
-FM ALOIS MOCK YESTERDAY TOLD JOURNALISTS THAT AMB. RONALD LAUDER HAD PROMISED FULL COOPERATION REGARDING THE GOA REQUEST TO BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE ALLEGEDLY INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE CALLED THE ANTI-WALDHEIM REMARK BY CANADIAN PM BRIAN MULRONEY "UNFRIENDLY" AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE AT A MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRAT UNION HE WILL ATTEND IN CANADA THIS SPRING. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 VIENNA 07047

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ZEITUNG, MAY 5)

-OVP DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ERHARD BUSEK SAID HE WAS ALARMED AT THE "FRIENDLY SIGNALS FROM THE EAST" WHICH HE CALLED AN ATTEMPT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RISING ANTI-U.S. SENTIMENTS IN AUSTRIA. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, MAY 5)
-SPEAKING AS A PRIVATE PERSON, ECONOMICS MINISTER ROBERT GRAF SAID AUSTRIA SHOULD NOT SEND AN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. FOR SOME MONTHS, EVEN IF THE U.S. REACTED BY RECALLING AMB. LAUDER, "WHO ACTS LIKE A ROMAN 'PROCONSUL' VIS-A-VIS AUSTRIA". (INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, MAY 5)
-REFERRING TO ANGERED LETTERS TO THE EDITOR BY SPO VOTERS,

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AN EDITORIAL IN THE SOCIALIST "AZ" TODAY ADMITTED THAT SPO FOLLOWERS WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY IRRITATED AT CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY'S PUBLIC DEFENSE OF WALDHEIM. (SOCIALIST AZ, MAY 5)

3. BELGIAN FM TINDEMANS TO MEET WITH FM MOCK TODAY:

BELGIAN FM LEO TINDEMANS TODAY WILL ADDRESS THE CSCE, WHICH RESUMES WORK AT THE NEW LOCATION, THE "AUSTRIA CENTER VIENNA". IN A MEETING WITH AUSTRIAN FM ALOIS MOCK SCHEDULED FOR TODAY, BOTH POLITICIANS ARE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS THE AUSTRIAN POSITION ON THE CSCE PROCESS, AUSTRIAN INTEGRATION INTO THE EC, AND THE FINANCING OF THIS FALL'S "EUROPALIA" CULTURAL EXHIBITION IN BRUSSELS. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, MAY 5)

4. AFGHAN SOCIAL DEMOCRAT ATTACKS SO-CALLED RECONCILIATION MOVES BY AFGHAN GOVERNMENT:

IN AN INTERVIEW FOR THE DAILY "DIE PRESSE", THE LEADER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN AFGHANISTAN, HADDAD FARHAD, TERMED "SO-CALLED RECONCILIATION OFFERS" BY THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT "A FARCE". FIGHTING HAS ONLY BECOME MORE INTENSE AND HAS BEEN CARRIED INTO REFUGEE CAMPS IN PAKISTAN. THE PROCLAIMED AMNESTY WAS NOT APPLIED TO MEMBERS OF THE AFGHAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, MANY OF WHOM WERE STILL HELD IN PRISON. THE POLITICIAN FURTHER CRITICIZED THE FUNDAMENTALIST RESISTANCE MOVEMENT FOR NOT TOLERATING NON-FUNDAMENTALIST GROUPS. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, MAY 5)
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5. OVP POLITICIAN CALLS ON TURKEY TO GRANT EQUAL RIGHTS TO CHRISTIAN MINORITY:

IN A LETTER TO THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN VIENNA, OVP HUMAN RIGHTS SPOKESMAN JOSEF HOECHTL CALLED ON TURKEY TO GRANT EQUAL RIGHTS TO THE CHRISTIAN MINORITY. (INDEPENDANT DIE PRESSE, MAY 5). LAUDER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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