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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ELAB, AU, EIND  
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.84/87, FOR 05/07/87

1. WALDHEIM CONSIDERS SUING WJC PRESIDENT BRONFMAN:

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, PRESIDENT KURT WALDHEIM IS

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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CONSIDERING SUING WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS PRESIDENT EDGAR BRONFMAN FOR SLANDER. ON THE EVE OF THE WJC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING IN BUDAPEST MAY 5, BRONFMAN HAD BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING WALDHEIM HAD BEEN "AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE NAZI DEATH MACHINE". IN RESPONSE BRONFMAN SAID HE WAS WILLING TO COME TO AUSTRIA FOR THE TRIAL. BRONFMAN FURTHER REMARKED IT WAS TIME THE WJC SOUGHT RECONCILIATION WITH THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE. WJC EXECUTIVES IN BUDAPEST OVERWHELMINGLY APPLAUDED THE "WATCH-LIST" DECISION. VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADER PAUL GROSZ WAS THE ONLY ONE AT THE MEETING TO OPPOSE THE U.S. MOVE. PAPERS FURTHER NOTED THAT WALDHEIM'S "WHITE BOOK" WILL BE DELAYED TO INCLUDE REPORTS BY THE AUSTRIAN DELEGATION OF HISTORIANS WHICH WILL TRAVEL TO BELGRADE TO EXAMINE RECORDS HELD IN YUGOSLAV MILITARY ARCHIVES. IT WAS ALSO STATED THAT WEST GERMAN HISTORIAN MANFRED MESSERSCHMIDT, DIRECTOR OF THE FREIBURG MILITARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, WILL ISSUE AN OPINION ON WALDHEIM'S WARTIME ACTIVITIES NEXT WEEK. MESSERSCHMIDT COULD ALSO CHAIR AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF MILITARY EXPERTS EXPECTED TO LOOK INTO THE WALDHEIM CASE. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, MAY 7)

2. OVP AND SPO STATEMENTS ON WALDHEIM AFFAIR:

IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT, THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP) TODAY CRITICIZED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DECISION AS "AN UNFRIENDLY ACT TOWARD AUSTRIA" WHICH REPRESENTED "A SERIOUS BURDEN ON TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY U.S.-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO OVP FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN MP ANDREAS KHOL, SUING U.S. MEDIA FOR SLANDER WOULD BE COSTLY AND TIME-CONSUMING BUT COULD ALSO PROVE WORTHWHILE. IN HIS VIEW LIBEL SUITS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS - KHOL NAMED WJC SECRETARY-GENERAL ISRAEL SINGER AS A POSSIBLE TARGET - WOULD BE THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND PROMISING AVENUE. SPO FLOOR LEADER HEINZ FISCHER EXPLAINED THAT THE SPO LEADERSHIP DEFENDED PRESIDENT WALDHEIM IN THE INTEREST OF AUSTRIA'S DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME FISCHER NOTED THAT WALDHEIM HAD NOT SATISFACTORILY ANSWERED QUESTIONS RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH HIS WARTIME PAST. (ORF NEWS, MAY 7)

3. FM MOCK ATTENDS COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETING IN STRASBOURG:

AUSTRIAN FM AND VICE CHANCELLOR ALOIS MOCK LEFT FOR A 2-DAY TRIP TO STRASBOURG MAY 6 TO ATTEND THE 80TH MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MAY 7)

4. EC-VICE PRESIDENT LORD COCKFIELD IN VIENNA:

AT THE INVITATION OF ECONOMICS MINISTER ROBERT GRAF, EC VICE PRESIDENT LORD FRANCIS COCKFIELD ARRIVED IN VIENNA MAY 6. COCKFIELD WILL MEET WITH GRAF, CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY AND NATIONAL BANK PRESIDENT STEFAN KOREN. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MAY 7)

5. OVP POLITICIANS CRITICAL OF AUSTRIAN AID TO NICARAGUA:

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ON RETURN FROM A SESSION OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION IN MANAGUA, OVP FLOOR LEADER FRITZ KOENIG AND OVP FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN ANDREAS KHOL CALLED FOR A REVISION OF AUSTRIAN FOREIGN AID POLICY TOWARD NICARAGUA. ACCORDING UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 07211

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TO KOENIG, THERE WERE EXAMPLES OF AUSTRIAN AID BEING MISUSED FOR PARAMILITARY PURPOSES. KHOL ARGUED IN FAVOR OF COSTA RICA'S PEACE PLAN FOR THE REGION. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MAY 7)

6. AUSTRIAN CHURCH LEADERS REJECT CRITICISM BY CARDINAL STICKLER:

THE HEAD OF THE AUSTRIAN BISHOPS CONFERENCE, ARCHBISHOP KARL BERG, AND CATHOLIC LAY REPRESENTATIVE EDUARD PLOIER HAVE REJECTED CRITICISM OF THE AUSTRIAN CHURCH FROM CARDINAL ALFONS STICKLER. IN AN INTERVIEW STICKLER HAD REITERATED CHARGES OF DISLOYALTY TO THE POPE AND TO CHURCH DOGMA ON THE PART OF THE AUSTRIAN CATHOLICS. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, SOCIALIST AZ, ET.AL, MAY 6,7)

6. YUGOSLAV DISSIDENT DJILAS ON SOVIET "GLASNOST":

ADDRESSING A VIENNA AUDIENCE MAY 6, YUGOSLAV DISSIDENT MILOVAN DJILAS CALLED GORBACHEV'S "GLASNOST" "A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT" WHICH ALLOWED - MAINLY CULTURAL - OPPOSITION GROUPS TO BECOME ACTIVE BY LEGALIZING CERTAIN PROSCRIBED PRACTICES. HOWEVER, SUCH MINOR ADJUSTMENTS WOULD NEVER ALTER THESE SYSTEMS' DEMAND FOR ABSOLUTE POWER. GORBACHEV WILL MEET RESISTANCE MAINLY FROM THE NOMENCLATURA AND THE MILITARY, SAID DJILAS. THE CRISIS OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM WAS DEEPER THAN ADMITTED IN THE MEDIA. IN HIS VIEW THE MONOLITHIC COMMUNIST WORLD IS INCREASINGLY BEING REPLACED BY NATIONAL VERSIONS OF COMMUNISM. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, INDEPENDENT PROVINCIAL SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN, SALZBURG, MAY 7)

7. LABOR CRITICIZES GOA POLICY ON NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES:

IN A LETTER TO CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY AND VICE CHANCELLOR MOCK, THE AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED "CONCERN" OVER GOA'S RECENTLY-ADOPTED PRIVATIZATION PLANS. SPO CENTRAL SECRETARY HEINRICH KELLER DEFENDED THE GOA POLICY TOWARD THE AILING STATE-RUN

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SECTOR SAYING IT DID NOT REFLECT A BREACH OF TRADITIONAL  
SPO VALUES. (SOCIALIST AZ, ET. AL, MAY 7). BLOCH

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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