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CONTROLS
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENNA 07511

SERIAL: (U) IIR 6 806 0204 87

TEXT

COUNTRY: (U) AUSTRIA (AU)

SUBJECT: IIR 6 806 0204 87 WALDHEIM DECISION AND
- EFFECT ON AUSTRIAN - US MILITARY
- RELATIONSHIP (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT
- FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL.

DOI: (U) 870513

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REQS: (U) F-SCH-B0001

SOURCE: (U) //MEMBER, USDAO VIENNA//

SUMMARY: (U) AUSTRIAN GENERAL TROOP INSPECTOR ((TAUSCHITZ)) DOES NOT WANT ((WALDHEIM)) DECISION TO AFFECT U.S. - AUSTRIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP.

TEXT: (U)

1. (U) REACTION IN THE AUSTRIAN PRESS TO THE U.S. DECISION TO PLACE **KURT WALDHEIM** ON THE WATCH LIST HAS BEEN VERY STRONG AGAINST THE U.S. POSITION. PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM ALL ELEMENTS OF THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN IN SUPPORT OF THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT. PRIMARY ARGUMENTS HAVE BEEN THAT THERE IS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE CHARGE, THE U.S. HAS DISCRIMINATED AGAINST A FRIENDLY COUNTRY, AND SUCH AN ACT AGAINST THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT IS AN ACT AGAINST THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES AS WELL AS AGAINST THE NATION. A LARGE NUMBER OF LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN PROTEST AGAINST THE DECISION. ONE PROMINENT MILITARY OFFICER, A MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDING ONE OF THE PROVINCIAL MILITARY REGIONAL COMMANDS HAS DRAMATICALLY SENT BACK HIS DIPLOMA AS A GRADUATE OF THE US ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE ALONG WITH 8 OTHER U.S. ARMY SCHOOL DIPLOMAS. HIS ACCOMPANYING LETTER STATED THAT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. ARMED FORCES HAD ENDED.

2. (C) IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH AUSTRIAN GENERAL TROOP INSPECTOR TAUSCHITZ, HE STATED THAT THE U.S.-AUSTRIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WAS NOT CHANGED BY THE DECISION AGAINST WALDHEIM WHO IS ALSO COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF AUSTRIAN ARMED FORCES. ALTHOUGH TAUSCHITZ ADMITTED THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY EMBARRASSED BY THE DECISION, HE SAID THAT EVERY RESPONSIBLE AUSTRIAN KNOWS THAT AUSTRIA NEEDS THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT IN TIME HE BELIEVED THE EMOTIONAL HOSTILITY TO THE DECISION WOULD BLOW OVER. HE DISMISSED THE INCIDENT OF THE MAJOR GENERAL WHO RETURNED HIS DIPLOMAS AS A MAN WHO IN HIS WORDS IS "CRAZY" AND WHO DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR GOOD AUSTRIAN - U.S. MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS. TAUSCHITZ SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW OF ANYONE ELSE IN THE MILITARY HIERARCHY WHO WOULD CONSIDER CUTTING OFF ANY PERSONAL OR OFFICIAL TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES. HE POINTED TO THE WALL IN HIS OFFICE WHICH WAS FILLED WITH U.S. MILITARY DIPLOMAS, CERTIFICATES AND PHOTOS SAYING, THAT HE PERSONALLY FEELS THAT A PART OF HIMSELF IS IN THE U.S. MILITARY.

COMMENTS: (U) PUBLIC REACTION IN AUSTRIA AGAINST THE U.S. DECISION ON WALDHEIM CAN BE SEPARATED FROM OFFICIAL U.S. - AUSTRIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS.

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ALTHOUGH EVERYONE SEEMS TO FEEL TENSION IN THEIR PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH THE AUSTRIANS, THIS HUMAN EMOTION SHOULD HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO BEARING ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS BETWEEN OUR ARMED FORCES NOW NOR IN THE FUTURE. THE U.S. SIDE SHOULD LOOK FOR POSITIVE GESTURES IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE AUSTRIANS THAT THE ACTION WAS AGAINST WALDHEIM THE MAN AND NOT AGAINST THEIR COMMANDER IN CHIEF. IT CAN BE ADDED HOWEVER, THAT THE AUSTRIANS WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE SUCH A DISTINCTION IN THEIR OWN MINDS.

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ADMIN

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