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CONTROLS

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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PTER, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.93/87, FOR 05/20/87

1. TRIAL OF TERRORISTS ACCUSED OF 1985 ATTACK AT VIENNA
AIRPORT OPENS IN VIENNA:

THE TRIAL OPENED IN VIENNA MAY 19 OF "FATAH FIGHTERS"
MONGI BEN ABDOLLAH SAADAOUI AND TAWFIK BEN AHMED CHAOVALI,
WHO, TOGETHER WITH AN ACCOMPLICE KILLED IN THE ATTACK, HAD
STORMED THE DEPARTURE HALL OF THE VIENNA AIRPORT ON
DECEMBER 27, 1985. TWO AUSTRIANS AND AN ISRAELI TOURIST

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WERE KILLED IN THE ATTACK. THE TWO TERRORISTS ARE CHARGED WITH TWO MURDERS AND THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF ANOTHER 87 PEOPLE. SAADAQUI AND CHAOVALI HAVE NOT BEEN CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF THE ISRAELI CITIZEN AS EXPERTS WERE UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHICH OF THE THREE TERRORISTS KILLED THE MAN. TWO AUSTRIAN ATTORNEYS WERE CHOSEN BY LOT TO DEFEND THE TERRORISTS. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT DI PRESSE, MAY 18-20).

2. NO AUSTRIAN WEAPONS TO NICOSIA, AMB. KLESTIL SAYS:

AUSTRIA DOES NOT SUPPLY WEAPONS TO CYPRUS AND WILL KEEP ITS UN FORCES ON THE ISLAND, AMB. THOMAS KLESTIL, SECRETARY-GENERAL-DESIGNATE IN THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, SAID AT A MEETING OF NEUTRAL AND NON-ALIGNED NATIONS IN LIMASOL. KLESTIL WAS REACTING TO CHARGES BY TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER RAUF DENKTASH, WHO HAD ACCUSED AUSTRIA OF VIOLATING ITS NEUTRAL STATUS BY PLANNING TO SHIP ARMS TO THE NICOSIA GOVERNMENT. IN THIS CONTEXT, DENKTASH HAD REPORTEDLY QUESTIONED THE ROLE OF AUSTRIAN UN TROOPS ON THE ISLAND. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MAY 19)

3. OFFICIAL VISIT TO VIENNA BY EAST GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY PRESIDENT:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE EAST GERMAN PEOPLE'S CHAMBER, HORST SINDERMANN, ARRIVED IN VIENNA MAY 18 FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT. IN A DINNER TOAST FM ALOIS MOCK EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AUSTRIAN-GDR RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF PAN-EUROPEAN COOPERATION. MOCK ALSO PRAISED THE EFFORTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN EUROPE. SINDERMANN FURTHER MET WITH AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENTARY PRESIDENT LEOPOLD GRATZ AND OTHER LEGISLATORS AND CALLED ON PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM**. GDR FM FISCHER IS EXPECTED TO VISIT AUSTRIA IN THE FALL. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MAY 20.)

4. FM MOCK STRESSES AUSTRIA'S CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES:

IN AN INTERVIEW FOR THE ISRAELI PAPER "MA'ARIV", FM MOCK SAID AUSTRIA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY. AUSTRIA'S ASSISTANCE WAS IN NO WAY PEGGED TO THE STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, MOCK EMPHASIZED. MOCK DENIED THAT THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR COULD POSSIBLY CAUSE AN "ANTI-SEMITIC RENAISSANCE" IN AUSTRIA, ADDING THAT ANY FORM OF ANTI-SEMITISM HAD TO BE CONDEMNED. HE REJECTED THE INTERPRETATION THAT A JEWISH LOBBY IN THE U.S. HAD TRIGGERED THE 'WATCH-LIST' DECISION AND REFERRED TO "OUR NUMEROUS JEWISH FRIENDS WHO SUPPORT OUR STAND". (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MAY 19)

5. KURDS OCCUPY VIENNA RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS IN PROTEST OVER IRAQI GENOCIDE:

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ABOUT SEVENTY KURDS OCCUPIED THE VIENNA RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS MAY 18 IN THEIR EFFORT TO CALL PUBLIC ATTENTION TO "THE GENOCIDE OF THE KURDISH MINORITY IN IRAQ PERPETRATED BY THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT. THE GROUP APPEALED TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC TO EXERT PRESSURE ON IRAQ TO STOP ITS PERSECUTION OF KURDS. UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 07780

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(SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MAY 19)

6. STUDENT ELECTIONS SEEN AS FIRST BAROMETER OF AUSTRIAN POLITICAL CLIMATE:

SOME 189,000 STUDENTS AT AUSTRIA'S 18 UNIVERSITIES ARE BEING CALLED ON TO CAST THEIR VOTES MAY 19-21 IN THE BIENNIAL ELECTIONS OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIONAL BODIES. 18 DIFFERENT POLITICAL FACTIONS ARE VYING FOR 65 SEATS IN THE AUSTRIAN-WIDE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IN THE CURRENT COMMITTEE, THE OVP AFFILIATED "ACTION GROUP" HOLDS 23 SEATS, 16 SEATS ARE OCCUPIED BY THE SOCIALIST STUDENT UNION, THE CONSERVATIVE, OVP-AFFILIATED YOUNG EUROPEAN STUDENT INITIATIVE HAS 15 SEATS. SEVEN MORE FACTIONS SHARE 11 MANDATES. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY OVER THE CANDIDACY OF A GROUP CALLING ITSELF "THE AUSTRIAN GREENS", WHICH ESTABLISHED PARTIES HAVE ACCUSED OF PROPAGATING NEO-NAZI IDEOLOGIES. DESPITE A TRADITIONALLY LOW TURN OUT OF AROUND 30 PERCENT, POLITICAL OBSERVERS VIEW THE STUDENT ELECTIONS AS A FIRST MEASUREMENT OF AUSTRIA'S POLITICAL CLIMATE SINCE THE COALITION GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED IN JANUARY. (MOST PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, MAY 19). BLOCH

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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