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SUBJECT: AUSTRIA MEDIA REACTION

1. WALDHEIM SPEECH AND VRANITZKY'S U.S. VISIT: SEVERAL VIENNA PAPERS OF MAY 20 EDITORIALIZED ON WALDHEIM;S MAY 19 RADIO AND TV ADDRESS TO THE NATION, IN WHICH H CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER AGAINST HIM, BUT ALSO CONDEMNED NAZI ATROCITIES AND ANTI-SEMITISM (AS REPORTED BY SEPTTEL).

UNDER THE FRONT PAGE HEADLINE "AND NOW?," CHIEF EDITOR THOMAS CHORHERR WROTE IN THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "DIE PRESSE": "BEFORE HIS FELLOW-CITIZENS, THE CHIEF OF STATE HAS VINDICATED HIMSELF, AND HE HAS ALSO DEMONSTRATED THE KIND OF DISCERNMENT THE WORLD HAS BEEN DEMANDING OF HIM. HE CAN NOW LEGITIMATELY ASK THAT DISCERNMENT BE SHOWN ELSEWHERE, TOO. AND, TOGETHER WITH THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT, AUSTRIA AS WELL WILL INSIST ON FAIRNESS, SOMETHING WHICH WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED SO FAR. OTHERWISE, THE CONCLUSION WOULD BE LOGICAL THAT ONLY BAD WILL, NOT SERIOUS CONCERN, IS THE CRUCIAL FACTOR. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS OF THAT."

PETER GNAM IN THE INDEPENDENT, MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID "KRONEN-ZEITUNG" UNDER THE PAGE 3 HEADLINE "CLEAR WORDS": "CERTAINLY THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE SAYING THAT WALDHEIM'S STATEMENT WAS MADE TOO LATE AND THAT, THEREFORE, IT IS OF NO VALUE. WELL, IT MAY HAVE BEEN MADE LATE, BUT SUCH CLEAR LANGUAGE CAN NEVER BE WORTHLESS, ESPECIALLY NOT IF WE BEAR IN MIND THAT THERE IS NOT A SINGLE WAR DOCUMENT WHICH COULD SERVE AS EVIDENCE OF WALDHEIM'S PERSONAL GUILT, LET ALONE OF INVOLVEMENT IN WAR CRIMES. THE AUSTRIANS ARE FAR FROM DROPPING WALDHEIM ALTHOUGH THE AMERICANS HAVE BRANDED HIM AS A 'LEPER' AND ALTHOUGH ORF (THE PUBLIC AUSTRIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION) IN ITS TELECAST MONDAY NIGHT CAST INDISCRIMINATE SUSPICION ON HIM, EVIDENTLY IN THE SERVICE OF CERTAIN SOCIALIST PARTY CIRCLES."

UNDER THE PAGE 2 HEADLINE "BELATED WORDS," CHIEF EDITOR MANFRED SCHEUCH REMARKED IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY DAILY "NEUE AZ": "UNFORTUNATELY, PRESIDENT WALDHEIM STILL DOES NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND WHAT ALL THIS IS REALLY ABOUT. HE LED OFF HIS TV ADDRESS BY SAYING THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY PERSONAL GUILT ON HIS PART. IF NOTHING ELSE, HOWEVER, HE HAS TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE LACK OF CREDIBILITY WHICH HAS ARISEN AROUND HIS PERSON. AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE HAS DECLARED THAT IN THE NAZI ERA HE WAS IN A SITUATION MARKED BY 'HELPLESSNESS IN THE FACE OF COERCION' AND THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO BREAK THIS VICIOUS CIRCLE. WHAT IS BITTER ABOUT THIS IS THE FACT THAT ALL THIS HAS BEEN SAID SO LATE - MANY PEOPLE THINK TOO LATE - AND THAT, IN A WAY, IT HAS BEEN DONE ONLY ON REQUEST. IF THIS HAD BEEN DONE ONE YEAR AGO, AUSTRIA COULD HAVE TURNED ITS UNDISTURBED ATTENTION TO THIS COUNTRY'S REAL PROBLEMS."

IN A PAGE 2 EDITORIAL, ENTITLED "HISTORY, THE PRESIDENT

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AND THE CHANCELLOR," DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR HANS RAUSCHER WROTE IN THE INDEPENDENT, MASS-CIRCULATION "KURIER": "SO TO SPEAK, WALDHEIM HAS GIVEN THIS SPEECH TO CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY TO TAKE ALONG ON HIS U.S. TRIP. IN THE U.S., VRANITZKY VERY PROBABLY WILL HAVE TWO KINDS OF EXPERIENCE. THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WILL DO ITS BEST TO GIVE HIM A FRIENDLY RECEPTION. WITH A BAD CONSCIENCE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 07784

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BECAUSE THE 'WATCHLIST' DECISION WAS MOTIVATED MAINLY BY CONSIDERATIONS OF DOMESTIC POLICY, IT WILL UNROLL THE RED CARPET FOR VRANITZKY AND EMPHASIZE FRIENDSHIP WITH AUSTRIA. OF COURSE, **KURT WALDHEIM** WILL BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS UNDER DISCUSSION, BUT ONE WILL TRY TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN HIM, ON THE ONE HAND, AND VRANITZKY AND AUSTRIA, ON THE OTHER. THIS IS NATURALLY A DANGEROUS TRAP. VRANITZKY WILL GET 'HIS EXTRA TEN MINUTES WITH REAGAN,' AS AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT SAID WITH FRIENDLY CYNICISM, AND ATTORNEY GENERAL ED MEESE HAS EVEN ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN HIS DECISION TO THE CHANCELLOR. AS FAR AS THE U.S. MEDIA ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THE CHANCELLOR - AND AUSTRIA EVEN LESS - CANNOT EXPECT AN ADVANCE PAYMENT IN TERMS OF GOOD WILL."

IN A PAGE 3 BACKGROUNDER, ENTITLED "EN ROUTE TO AMERICA," FOREIGN EDITOR HEINZ NUSSBAUMER EXPLAINED IN THE "KURIER" WHAT WILL BE GUIDING THE CHANCELLOR DURING HIS VISIT: "IT CANNOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF AUSTRIA AS A NEUTRAL, WESTERN, DEMOCRATIC, AND HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED SMALL STATE TO WORK FOR A PERMANENT CONFLICT WITH AMERICA AT A TIME WHEN SOVIET PRIME MINISTER (NIKOLAI) RYSHKOV HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED HIS VISIT TO VIENNA. ... NO ONE (IN AUSTRIA) CAN REALLY EXPECT IMMEDIATE DELETION OF WALDHEIM FROM THE WATCHLIST - JUST TO PLEASE THE VISITING CHANCELLOR. BUT AMERICA WILL HAVE TO REALIZE THAT THE 'CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH AUSTRIA' IT HAS OFFERED CAN HARDLY BE CONDUCTED AT PRESENT. ... WHEN **KURT WALDHEIM** MADE HIS TV SPEECH TUESDAY NIGHT, FRANZ VRANITZKY WAS ALREADY FLYING TO THE U.S. (EAST) COAST. THE CHANCELLOR DID NOT REQUEST THIS

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SPEECH, BUT HE GLADLY PUT IT INTO HIS BAGGAGE." KOHL

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END OF MESSAGE

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