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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ELAB, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.95/87, FOR 05/22/87

1. WALDHEIM REGRETS U.S. FIRMNESS ON "WATCH-LIST"
DECISION:

IN AN INTERVIEW FOR THE AUSTRIAN TABLOID DAILY
"KRONENZEITUNG", PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** SAID HE REGRETTED
U.S. STATEMENTS THAT THE "WATCH-LIST" DECISION COULD NOT
BE REVISED. WALDHEIM SAID THE ENTRY BAN WAS NOT JUSTIFIED
IN ANY RESPECT AND CONTRADICTED EUROPEAN LEGAL PRACTICE.
HE UNDERLINED THAT HE HAD HAD NO ILLUSIONS THAT THE U.S.
WOULD CHANGE THE DECISION. ASKED ABOUT WHAT CONSEQUENCES

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HE WOULD DRAW, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS WAITING FOR CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY'S REPORT UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE U.S. (INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, MAY 22)

2. WALDHEIM-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS:

-THE LEADER OF THE AUSTRIAN GREEN PARTY, FREDA MEISSNER-BLAU, YESTERDAY REITERATED HER PARTY'S VIEW THAT WALDHEIM SHOULD STEP DOWN. MEISSNER-BLAU SAID SHE FAVORED A REFERENDUM TO RECALL WALDHEIM.

-DELIVERING AN OVP PARTY PRESIDUM STATEMENT YESTERDAY, FM ALOIS MOCK REPEATED HIS VIEW THAT THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR WAS NOT A STRAIN ON THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE STILL BELIEVED THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR HAD BEEN "HOME-MADE".

-IN A VIENNA PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 21, SALZBURG HISTORIAN GERHARD BOTZ, A FIERCE CRITIC OF WALDHEIM, REFERRED TO WAR DOCUMENTS WHICH HE SAID CLEARLY INDICATED THAT "WALDHEIM WAS ONE OF THE BEST-INFORMED OFFICERS OF HIS UNIT".

DURING HIS SERVICE IN THE ARMY GROUP E NEAR THESSALONIKI WALDHEIM MUST HAVE KNOWN OF DEPORTATIONS OF JEWS IN HIS AREA, BOTZ CHARGED. (INDEPENDENT SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN, MAY 22)

-ACCORDING TO THE DAILY "DIE PRESSE", THE U.S. EMBASSY IN VIENNA HAS BEEN RECEIVING A SPATE OF LARGELY ANTI-U.S. LETTERS AND PHONE CALLS FOLLOWING THE WATCH-LIST DECISION AND THE MAY 15 MEETING BETWEEN GOA OFFICIALS AND THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DELEGATION. ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, THE WATCH-LIST DECISION HAD NOT TRIGGERED A WAVE OF ANTI-U.S. SENTIMENTS, EVEN THOUGH THE CLIMATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD COOLED CONSIDERABLY. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, MAY 22)

-A "DIE PRESSE" REPORT OF YESTERDAY, REPLAYED IN TODAY'S PROVINCIAL INDEPENDENT "KLEINE ZEITUNG", CLAIMED THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM OF AND ANGER WITH U.S. AMB. RONALD LAUDER ON THE PART OF AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. THE MAJOR REASON GIVEN WAS THE AMBASSADOR'S DEFENSE OF THE U.S. WATCH-LIST DECISION, WHICH HE EXPRESSED DURING THE DOJ TEAM'S MAY 15 DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AUSTRIAN SIDE. (CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT KLEINE ZEITUNG, GRAZ, MAY 22)

3. 1985 VIENNA AIRPORT TERRORISTS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT:

THE TWO SURVIVING "FATAH" TERRORISTS, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ATTACK ON THE VIENNA AIRPORT IN DECEMBER 1985 KILLING 3 PEOPLE, HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT BY A VIENNA COURT. NO APPEAL HAS BEEN MADE. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, MAY 21)

4. LIBERAL, OVP-AFFILIATED GROUP WINS STUDENT ELECTIONS:

THE LIBERAL, OVP-AFFILIATED "ACTION GROUP" HAS EMERGED AS THE CLEAR VICTOR IN THE MAY 19-21 NATIONWIDE STUDENT ELECTIONS. THE CONSERVATIVE "YOUNG EUROPEAN STUDENT UNION" SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES, WHILE THE SOCIALIST STUDENTS" RETAINED THEIR SHARE OF THE VOTE. TWO GREEN

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GROUPS WILL ENTER THE NATIONAL "CENTRAL STUDENT COMMITTEE" FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE FPO'S STUDENT ORGANIZATION AS WELL AS AN EXTREME, RIGHT-WING GROUP WILL ALSO BE REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, MAY 22)

5. MORE LABOR OPPOSITION TO GOA PRIVATIZATION PLANS:
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IN SPEECHES TO THE CONGRESS OF THE POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS UNION, LEADING LABOR REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL AS CHANCELLERY MINISTER FRANZ LOESCHNAK UNDERSCORED THEIR OPPOSITION TO GOA PLANS FOR PARTIAL PRIVATIZATION OF THE POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR. AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION PRESIDENT ANTON BENYA AGAIN SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE GOA'S PRIVATIZATION PLAN FOR KEY AREAS OF NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES. (MOST PAPERS, E.G. SOCIALIST AZ, MAY 20-22)

6. AUSTRIAN TO HEAD EFTA STARTING APRIL 1988:

THE LEADER OF AUSTRIA'S PERMANENT MISSION TO EFTA, 57-YEAR OLD GEORG REISCH, WILL BE APPOINTED NEW EFTA SECRETARY-GENERAL APRIL 1988. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, MAY 21). BLOCH

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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