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TEXT

TAGS: PGOV, SW, AU
SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY VISIT TO SWEDEN

1. SUMMARY: AUSTRIA'S FEDERAL CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO SWEDEN JUNE 20-23 AT THE INVITATION OF PM INGVAR CARLSSON. BESIDES MEETINGS WITH CARLSSON, THE VISIT INCLUDED CALLS ON OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS, AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING, A VISIT TO THE MFA, AND INDUSTRIAL SITE INSPECTIONS. DESPITE EFFORTS BY THE TWO LEADERS TO EMPHASIZE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE VISIT, VRANITZKY WAS DOGGED BY THE PRESS WITH REPEATED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STATUS OF AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT KURT WALDHEIM. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SPITE OF STRENUOUS EFFORTS BY VRANITZKY AND CARLSSON TO INTEREST SWEDISH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN QUESTIONS ABOUT TRADE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES, AND TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, REPORTERS' INTEREST WAS ALMOST TOTALLY

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FOCUSSED ON TWO SUBJECTS--KURT WALDHEIM AND THE SWEDISH DRAGEN FIGHTER. VRANITZKY WAS REPEATEDLY ASKED ABOUT WALDHEIM'S ALLEGED COOPERATION WITH THE NAZIS DURING WORLD WAR II. VRANITZKY MUST AT TIMES HAVE BEEN IRRITATED BY REPORTERS' PERSISTENCE, BUT HE REMAINED UNRUFFLED, REFUSING TO BE DRAWN INTO SPECULATION ABOUT WALDHEIM'S FUTURE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WALDHEIM HIMSELF HAD WELCOMED AN INVESTIGATION INTO HIS PAST. NOTING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE THE FACT THAT THE U.S. HAS "DENIED A VISA" TO WALDHEIM, VRANITZKY SAID "THE FACT THAT THE U.S. HAS PUT THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT ON A WAITING LIST

(SIC) FOR A VISA TO THE U.S. DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE IS REGARDED AS A WAR CRIMINAL, BUT DEPENDS ON SPECIAL AMERICAN VISA LEGISLATION." VRANITZKY EXPLAINED TO THE PRESS THAT IT IS THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT'S TASK NOW TO CLARIFY THAT AUSTRIA IS A FREE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS AN ANTI-FASCIST AND NON-ANTI-SEMITIC ONE.

3. PM CARLSSON WAS ASKED IF WALDHEIM WAS WELCOME TO VISIT SWEDEN. CARLSSON DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY, BUT STRESSED THAT HE WOULD NOT INVITE HIM. "IT IS UP TO THE KING TO INVITE HEADS OF STATE," CARLSSON SAID.

4. VRANITZKY ADMITTED TO THE PRESS THAT THE OTHER TOPIC OF INTEREST--THE AUSTRIAN PURCHASE OF 24 DRAGEN FIGHTERS FROM SWEDEN--HAD CAUSED PROBLEMS IN AUSTRIA, SINCE CRITICS HAVE CALLED THE PLANE OUT-OF-DATE AND NOISY. BUT VRANITZKY ASSURED THE MEDIA THAT THE CONTRACT WILL BE FULFILLED. HE DECLINED TO FURTHER DISCUSS "DOMESTIC PROBLEMS" ABROAD.

5. VRANITZKY EXPRESSED HIS HOPES TO THE PRESS THAT HIS RELATIONS WITH INGVAR CARLSSON WILL BE AS GOOD AND LONG-STANDING AS THOSE BETWEEN FORMER CHANCELLOR KREISKY AND SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS. KUCHEL

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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