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TEXT

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: POPE RECEIVES WALDHEIM

"STRICT PROTOCOL--BUT WALDHEIM SAYS HE'S VERY PLEASED"
SAID A HEADLINE IN LAUSANNE LE MATIN THIS MORNING ON A
REPORT OF THE AUDIENCE POPE JOHN PAUL II GRANTED YESTERDAY
TO AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM**. "PROTESTS OVER
WALDHEIM VISIT" SAID A FRONT-PAGE TITLE IN BASLER
ZEITUNG. "PROTESTS AND DISQUIET" SAID GENEVA LA SUISSE,
WHILE LAUSANNE 24 HEURES HAD "PROTOCOL--AND PROBLEMS."

EDITORIAL COMMENT INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

JOURNAL DE GENEVE (CENTER-RIGHT): EDITORIAL HEADED
"UNDESIRABLE VISIT": "ALL THAT **KURT WALDHEIM'S** BRIEF VISIT
TO THE POPE HAS DONE IS TO REIGNITE CONTROVERSY. THE

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AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT, IN WHOM THE WHOLE WORLD HAD CONFIDENCE WHEN HE WAS UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, HAS BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL PARIAH."

TAGES-ANZEIGER, ZURICH (LEFTIST): "THE POPE HAS BROKEN THE BOYCOTT SURROUNDING WALDHEIM, BUT WAS IT A GOOD THING TO DO? THERE WERE CERTAINLY GROUNDS FOR NOT WITHHOLDING AN AUDIENCE FROM THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT. BUT THERE WERE ALSO WEIGHTIER ARGUMENTS FOR NOT GRANTING IT. FOR NEARLY 2,000 YEARS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH DID THE JEWS MUCH HARM. NOT UNTIL THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL WERE THE JEWS EXONERATED FROM THE GUILT OF CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION AND ANTISEMITISM WAS ROUNDLY CONDEMNED. POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS VISITED A ROME SYNAGOGUE AND THE MAIDANEK CONCENTRATION CAMP. DIDN'T THIS CONVINCED HIM THAT THE BURDEN OF HISTORY IS STILL TOO HEAVY TO GIVE PLACE TO CONSIDERATIONS OF DIPLOMATIC NORMALITY?"

BASLER ZEITUNG (LEFT-OF-CENTER): "IN GRANTING AN AUDIENCE TO THE AUSTRIAN HEAD OF STATE, POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS TARNISHED THE VATICAN'S IMAGE. BUT OF COURSE THE POPE DOESN'T SEE IT THIS WAY. THE POPE AND THE VATICAN ACCEPTED THAT THERE WOULD BE CONTROVERSY OVER THE VISIT. FROM THE DIPLOMATIC AND LEGAL VIEWPOINTS, THEY WERE RIGHT TO ARRANGE IT. WALDHEIM'S COMPLICITY IN WAR CRIMES HAS NOT BEEN PROVED; HE IS A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT. MOREOVER, THE POPE SEES AUSTRIA AS AN IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, VITAL TO REALIZING HIS IDEAL OF 'ONE EUROPE FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE URALS.' ALL THIS IS QUITE VALID. BUT THE VISIT HAS SET BACK THE CHURCH'S BELATED EFFORTS, AFTER CENTURIES OF HOSTILITY, TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH THE JEWS. THOSE WHO BELIEVE--SURELY MISTAKENLY--THAT THE CHURCH IS STILL ANTISEMITIC WILL FIND THEIR POSITION REINFORCED."
(6/26/87) HENZE

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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