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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.117/87, FOR 06/29/87

1. SPO LEADERSHIP OPPOSES VIENNA SPO'S CALL FOR WALDHEIM
RESIGNATION:

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DELEGATES OF THE VIENNA SPO'S PARTY CONGRESS OVER THE WEEKEND CALLED ON PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** TO STEP DOWN, ARGUING THAT THE PRESIDENT LACKED MORAL CREDIBILITY AND COULD NOT EXERT HIS CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES. REACTING TO THE RESOLUTION, TOP SPO POLITICIANS SAID WALDHEIM WAS DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED, A FACT WHICH HAD TO BE ACCEPTED. CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE RESOLUTION WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE SPO-OVP COALITION AND CAUTIONED AGAINST INTENTIONALLY PROVOKING A NATIONAL CRISIS. VICE CHANCELLOR FM MOCK SAID THE RESOLUTION INDICATED A SHARP SHIFT TO THE LEFT WITHIN THE VIENNA SPO ORGANIZATION BUT AGREED WITH THE CHANCELLOR THAT THE VOTE WOULD NOT PRECIPITATE A POLITICAL CRISIS. POLITICAL OBSERVERS COMMENTED THAT THE EVENT REVEALED THE EXTENT OF THE GRASS ROOTS ANTI-WALDHEIM SENTIMENTS IN THE SPO AND THAT IT COULD HAVE A SNOW-BALL EFFECT ON SPO ORGANIZATIONS IN OTHER PROVINCES. (ALL PAPERS, ORF NEWS, JUNE 28-29)

2. CHANCELLOR, VICE CHANCELLOR AND INTERIOR MINISTER CONDEMN ANTI-SEMITISM:

REACTING TO THE VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY'S EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN OVER ESCALATING ANTI-SEMITISM IN VIENNA, CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY, VICE CHANCELLOR AND FM MOCK AND INTERIOR MINISTER BLECHA STATED THEIR COMMITMENT TO FIGHT ANY SIGNS OF ANTI-SEMITISM. BLECHA ORDERED ALL AUTHORITIES INVOLVED TO RIGOROUSLY ENFORCE RELATED LAWS. ACCORDING TO A REPORT ON NATIONAL RADIO JUNE 29, THE CARDINAL OF NEW YORK HAS WARNED OF A WAVE OF ANTI-SEMITISM AMONG CATHOLICS IN CONNECTION WITH JEWISH CRITICISM OF THE WALDHEIM VISIT TO THE VATICAN. (ALL PAPERS, ORF NEWS, JUNE 27-29)

3. PRESIDENT WALDHEIM ENCOURAGED BY POPE'S RECEPTION - AUSTRIAN BISHOPS REJECT INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF MEETING:

PRESIDENT WALDHEIM TOLD JOURNALISTS THE VISIT HAD ENCOURAGED HIM "TO CONTINUE HIS DUTIES AS HEAD OF STATE". WALDHEIM SAID HE WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY THE POPE'S PRAISE OF AUSTRIA'S EFFORTS FOR PEACE IN EUROPE. IN A PUBLIC DECLARATION LAST FRIDAY, THE AUSTRIAN BISHOPS REJECTED THE WORLD-WIDE CRITICISM OF THE WALDHEIM VISIT TO THE VATICAN AS UNJUSTIFIED. (MOST PAPERS, E.G INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, JUNE 27-29)

4. AUSTRIAN MEDIA REACTION:

IN VARIOUS HEADLINES OVER THE WEEKEND THE TABLOID "KRONENZEITUNG" HIGHLIGHTED THAT "HATRED OF AUSTRIA WAS NOW BEING FANNED WORLD-WIDE". REFERRING TO REPORTS ON ANTI-WALDHEIM PROTESTS IN ROME, WHICH WERE AIRED ON AUSTRIAN TELEVISION, THE DAILY SHARPLY ATTACKED SUCH DISTORTED ANTI-WALDHEIM COVERAGE BY THE INDEPENDENT STATE-RUN TV NETWORK. THE DAILY "DIE PRESSE" CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL ENTITLED "AUSTRIA - THE WASTE DUMP", WHICH ARGUED THAT AUSTRIA WAS APPARENTLY BEING USED BY OTHER NATIONS AS A RUG TO CLEAN THEIR FEET. WALDHEIM'S

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VISIT TO THE POPE HAD FURTHER SHOWN THAT THE IRRATIONAL INTERNATIONAL ANTI-AUSTRIA CAMPAIGN WAS CONTINUING, PUBLISHER OTTO SCHULMEISTER WROTE. IN A "KURIER" EDITORIAL, HANS RAUSCHER EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER THE INCREASING POLARIZATION OF THE COUNTRY INTO PRO-AND ANTI-WALDHEIM CAMPS. RAUSCHER DENOUNCED EXTREMISTS ON BOTH SIDES. INDEPENDENT "SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN" WROTE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 VIENNA 09450

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THAT THE MEETING HAD BACKFIRED ON WALDHEIM AND AUSTRIA AND CRITICIZED FM MOCK FOR PRAISING THE EVENT AS A "GRAND GESTURE BY THE POPE". ACCORDING TO THE SALZBURG DAILY, THE "INFAMOUS" AND IRRATIONAL CAMPAIGN HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIRECTED AGAINST AUSTRIA. "PROFIL" EDITOR-IN-CHIEF H.M. LINGENS STATED THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR CANNOT BE CONTROLLED ANY MORE. THE DYNAMICS OF THE CASE HAVE (UNJUSTLY) TRANSFORMED WALDHEIM INTO A SYMBOL OF EVERYTHING ASSOCIATED WITH NAZI ERA. (ALL PAPERS, ORF NEWS, JUNE 26-29)

5. FORMER AMB. TO U.S. GRUBER CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD AUSTRIA AFTER "ANSCHLUSS":

WRITING IN THE MASS DAILY "KRONENZEITUNG", FORMER AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. KARL GRUBER, WHO RECENTLY VISITED THE U.S. IN HIS CAPACITY AS SPECIAL AMBASSADOR CHARGED WITH INFORMING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OF THE GOA POSITION ON WALDHEIM, SAID IT WAS "IMPOSSIBLE"...AND THUS "NOT WORTH TRYING" TO CONVINCING "A SIZABLE PART OF AMERICANS" THAT WALDHEIM HAD UNJUSTLY BEEN PUT ON THE "WATCH-LIST". IN HIS VIEW IT WAS THE ATTACKS AGAINST THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE THAT WERE THE TRUE REASON OF DEEP CONCERN NOW, GRUBER STATED. WHILE TRYING TO TELL THE FULL STORY OF AUSTRIA AND THE "ANSCHLUSS" AT THE TIME, GRUBER ALSO POINTED TO "AUSTRIA'S THEN CONSTERNATION" OVER WASHINGTON'S SILENT ACCEPTANCE OF HITLER'S ANNEXATION OF AUSTRIA. RESISTANCE FIGHTERS WERE PARTICULARLY DISTRESSED TO LEARN THAT SHORTLY AFTER THE "ANSCHLUSS" THE U.S. HAD PERMITTED THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO BE SOLD. GRUBER FURTHER RECALLED HIS "POSITIVE EXPERIENCE" WITH AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS DURING HIS TERMS AS AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. BUT HE REMARKED THAT "THE SECOND GENERATION IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS" WAS MUCH MORE CRITICAL OF AUSTRIA AND ITS PAST. (INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, JUNE 27)

6. AUSTRIAN ECONOMICS MINISTER INVITED TO U.S.:

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U.S. AMB. RONALD LAUDER HAS CONVEYED TO AUSTRIAN ECONOMICS MINISTER ROBERT GRAF AN INVITATION FROM U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE MALCOLM BALDRIGE FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE U.S. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG", JUNE 28)

7. U.S. FAVORS STRENGTHENING VIENNA'S ROLE AS UN CITY:

IN A STATEMENT MADE DURING THE UN DRUG CONFERENCE IN VIENNA, U.S. AMB. TO THE UN, VERNON WALTERS, REPORTEDLY SAID THE U.S. WAS IN FAVOR OF STRENGTHENING VIENNA'S ROLE AS A HOST TO THE UN. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, JUNE 27)

8. IRANIAN FM VISIT AUSTRIA:

IRANIAN FM ALI AKBAR VELAYATI ARRIVES IN VIENNA TODAY FOR AN OFFICIAL 3-DAY VISIT. HE WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT WALDHEIM, CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY AND FM MOCK. (ORF NEWS, JUNE 29)

9. ARAB AMBASSADORS CALL ON AUSTRIA TO CONTINUE LONGSTANDING MIDDLE EAST POLICY:

IN A CALL ON AMB. THOMAS KLESTIL, SECRETARY-GENERAL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, A DELEGATION OF ARAB AMBASSADORS EXPRESSED ITS HOPE THAT AUSTRIA CONTINUE ITS LONGSTANDING POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AMB. KLESTIL UNDERLINED AUSTRIA'S "GREAT INTEREST" IN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD AND UNDERScoreD THAT AUSTRIA WOULD NOT CHANGE THE PRINCIPLES OF ITS MIDDLE EAST POLICY. (SEMI-OFFICIAL UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 VIENNA 09450

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WIENER ZEITUNG, JUNE 28)

10. FM MOCK AND ITALIAN FM ANDREOTTI AGREE TO SOLVE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS ON SOUTH TYROL:

DURING THE JUNE 26 MEETING BETWEEN AUSTRIAN FM MOCK AND ITALIAN FM GIULIO ANDREOTTI, BOTH POLITICIANS DISCUSSED OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS REGARDING SOUTH TYROL, EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND EC NORTH-SOUTH TRANSIT TRAFFIC, AS WELL AS THE MEETING BETWEEN WALDHEIM AND POPE JOHN PAUL II. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW MOCK STRESSED "THE GREAT RESPECT AND POSITIVE STAND FM ANDREOTTI HAD EXPRESSED VIS-A-VIS AUSTRIA" DURING RECENT WEEKS. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE,

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INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, JUNE 28)

11. CSCE WILL NOT CONCLUDE BY JULY 31:

SPEAKING AT HIS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE, AUSTRIAN CHIEF CSCE DELEGATE AMB. RUDOLF TOROVSKY INDICATED THAT THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE WILL NOT CONCLUDE BY JULY 31ST AS SCHEDULED. MEANWHILE, REPORTS SAID NATO WILL TABLE PROPOSALS THIS WEEK ON THE FRAMEWORK OF FUTURE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS. FORMER AUSTRIAN FM PETER JANKOWITSCH (SPO) TOLD A CSCE-SEMINAR AUDIENCE OVER THE WEEKEND THAT FUTURE TALKS ON CONVENTIONAL DISARMAMENT SHOULD BE HELD OUTSIDE OF CSCE IF THE NNA'S WERE NOT INTEGRATED INTO SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. SOVIET AMB. KASHLEV WAS THE ONLY ONE AT THE SEMINAR TO SHARE JANKOWITSCH'S POSITION, A REPORT NOTED. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, JUNE 27-29)

12. POLISARIO WOMEN'S ACTIVIST IN VIENNA TO SOLICIT SUPPORT FOR UN RESOLUTION:

ON INVITATION OF THE AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST WOMEN ORGANIZATION, JADIYETY MOJITAR, A POLISARIO WOMEN'S ACTIVIST, ADDRESSED A VIENNA AUDIENCE TO SOLICIT SUPPORT FOR UN RESOLUTION 1641 CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM ON A FUTURE INDEPENDENT STATE FOR THE SAHAURI PEOPLE. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, JUNE 27). LAUDER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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