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CONTROLS

UNCLAS VIENNA 10069

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.125/87, FOR 07/10/87

1. AFFAIR FOLLOWING FORMER U.S. SECURITY ADVISOR CLARK'S
REVISION OF HIS TOAST TO WALDHEIM AT THE CENTER OF ALPBACH

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INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE CONGRESS:

THE AFFAIR FOLLOWING FORMER U.S. SECURITY ADVISOR WILLIAM CLARK'S CORRECTION OF HIS TOAST TO AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT WALDHEIM (AND PRESIDENT REAGAN) LAST WEDNESDAY HAS BECOME THE KEY TOPIC AT THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE CONGRESS AT ALPBACH, A BACKGROUND PIECE IN "DIE PRESSE" STATED. CLARK TOLD THE DAILY THAT HE ONLY WANTED TO MAKE A GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP AND DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE CONTROVERSIES THE

NCIDENT CREATED. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THERE IS ALSO SOME SPECULATION AS TO WHETHER U.S. AMB. LAUDER'S "MYSTERIOUS" CANCELLATION OF HIS (SECOND) APPEARANCE AT ALPBACH ON THURSDAY - THE U.S. EMBASSY HAD TOLD THE ORGANIZERS AT ALPBACH THAT LAUDER'S PLANE COULD NOT LAND BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER - WAS ONLY AN EXCUSE RELATED TO THE CLARK "FAUX PAS", THE PAPER WROTE. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, JULY 10)

2. EDITORIAL REACTION:

EDITORIALS IN LEADING AUSTRIAN PAPERS TODAY UNANIMOUSLY CRITICIZED CLARK AND THE U.S. IN CONNECTION WITH THE AFFAIR. COMPARING U.S. BEHAVIOR IN ALPBACH WITH A THIRD-RATE COMEDY UNFIT FOR A SUPERPOWER, A "KRONENZEITUNG" EDITORIAL SNEERED THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARD AUSTRIA HAS FINALLY GONE FROM THE STUPID TO THE RIDICULOUS. IN VIEW OF SUCH "CLUMSY" AND "FATAL" U.S. FOREIGN POLICY ONE MUST BE TERRIBLY FRIGHTENED AT THE THOUGHT THAT THE U.S. IS APPLYING THE SAME CATASTROPHIC POLICY IN AREAS MUCH MORE CRUCIAL THAN TINY AUSTRIA. REFERRING TO CLARK'S (LATER REVISED) TOAST TO "TWO GREAT PRESIDENTS", "KURIER" COLUMNIST HANS RAUSCHER SARCASTICALLY NOTED THAT, WHILE AMERICANS TEND TO APPLY THE WORD "GREAT" QUITE OFTEN, CLARK'S CORRECTION OF HIS TOAST WAS ANYTHING BUT "GREAT". MANFRED SCHEUCH OF THE SOCIALIST "AZ" REMARKED THAT "THE FARCE" AT ALPBACH ILLUSTRATED ONCE MORE THE CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN VIENNA AND WASHINGTON, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE SOVIET UNION IS SUPPLYING AUSTRIA WITH NEW IMPORTANT CONTRACTS. SCHEUCH CRITICIZED BOTH CLARK, WHOSE ATTEMPTED CORRECTION OF HIS "FAUX PAS" SCHEUCH SAID WAS MORE THAN EMBARRASSING, AND THE AUSTRIAN SIDE, WHICH TRIED TO INTERPRET CLARK'S TOAST TO WALDHEIM AS A BIG TURN ABOUT WASHINGTON'S POSITION TOWARD AUSTRIA. SCHEUCH FURTHER ATTACKED FM MOCK FOR DRAGGING THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR INTO THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE CONGRESS AT ALPBACH. (INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, INDEPENDENT KURIER, SOCIALIST AZ, JULY 10)

3. VIENNA JEWISH DOCUMENTATION CENTER CALLS ON DOJ AND DOI TO EXTRADITE FORMER SS NAZI CAMP GUARD BLACH:

ACCORDING TO AUSTRIAN RADIO, THE JEWISH DOCUMENTATION CENTER IN VIENNA HAS CALLED ON THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO EXTRADITE "FORMER SS MAN" KARL BRUNO BLACH. ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENTATION CENTER, BLACH, WHO HAD BEEN A GUARD AT THE

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THE CONCENTRATION CAMP AT WIENER NEUDORF, HAD KILLED A JEWISH INMATE IN APRIL 1945. SIMON WIESENTHAL, THE DIRECTOR OF THE VIENNA-BASED JEWISH DOCUMENTATION CENTER, SAID AN EXTRADITION COULD ALSO HELP AUSTRIA'S IMAGE ABROAD. (ORF NEWS, JULY 10)

4. RYZKHOV AND WALDHEIM PRAISE SOVIET-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS:
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DURING THE MEETING BETWEEN VISITING SOVIET MINISTER PRESIDENT NIKOLAY RYZKHOV AND PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** YESTERDAY, BOTH MEN PRAISED BILATERAL RELATIONS. CONTRARY TO PUBLIC SPECULATION, RYZKHOV DID NOT CONVEY AN INVITATION TO WALDHEIM, PAPERS NOTED. RYZKHOV SUGGESTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH AUSTRIA ON AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM IN THE EVENT OF NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS. BOTH COUNTRIES ALSO SIGNED SEVERAL AGREEMENTS, SUCH AS ON CULTURE, TOURISM, AND AVIATION. DURING A VISIT TO THE LINZ-BASED NATIONALIZED VOEST, THE AUSTRIAN STEEL PRODUCER RECEIVED A FOLLOW-UP ORDER OF AS 500 MILLION. COMMENTATORS REMARKED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TIMES OF LARGE-SCALE CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE USSR AND AUSTRIAN COMPANIES WAS APPARENTLY OVER. DURING A VISIT TO SALZBURG, RYZKHOV RECEIVED A MEMORANDUM FROM SALZBURG GOVERNOR WILFRIED HASLAUER WHICH ADDRESSED THE DIFFICULT SITUATION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITUVIA. REFERRING TO THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VISIT SO FAR, CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY SAID THAT, GIVEN THE CHANGES IN THE SOVIET UNION, AUSTRIA HAD ENTERED INTO A NEW PHASE OF RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, ORF NEWS, JULY 10)

5. EDITORIAL REACTION:

AN EDITORIAL IN THE SPO PAPER "AZ" POINTED TO THE HIGH POPULARITY AND "EUPHORIA" WHICH HAS ACCOMPANIED THE RYZKHOV VISIT SO FAR. GIVEN THE NATIONAL GRIEF OVER THE COUNTRY'S BAD IMAGE, AUSTRIAN "PATRIOTS" ARE PARTICULARLY PLEASED AT MOSCOW'S PRAISE FOR AUSTRIA, THE ARTICLE STATED. A RECENT HEADLINE IN AUSTRIA'S LEADING MASS-DAILY REFLECTED THE PUBLIC SYMPATHY FOR MOSCOW'S "UNWAVERING PRINCIPLES REGARDING AUSTRIA" AS COMPARED TO WASHINGTON'S "ILLYOAL" BEHAVIOR, "AZ" WROTE. IT IS QUITE DISGUSTING, HOWEVER, THAT FORMER CRITICS OF THE SOVIET UNION ARE NOW HAILING THE USSR FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED. THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY "DIE PRESSE" POINTED

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OUT THAT THE VISIT HAS OUTSTRIPPED AUSTRIAN EXPECTATIONS ,SO FAR. THE AUSTRO-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON THE RELAXATION OF BORDER TRAFFIC COULD BE A FIRST CONCRETE RESULT OF WHAT HAS SO FAR ONLY BEEN "GLASNOST" RHETORIC, THE PAPER REMARKED. (SOCIALIST AZ, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, JULY 10)

6. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE REJECTS "OLD AND NEW" ACCUSATIONS AGAINST WALDHEIM BY BRITISH JEWISH UNION:

PRESENTING A BROCHURE ON PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM'S** WARTIME ROLE IN A LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, THE BRITISH JEWISH COMMUNITIES UNION RAISED NEW ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT. ACCORDING TO THE ORGANIZATION, THE UN COMMITTEE FOR WAR CRIMES HAD PLACED WALDHEIM ON A LIST OF "GUILTY" PEOPLE WHICH ALSO INCLUDED KLAUS BARBIE AND JOSEF MENGELE. THE ORGANIZATION FURTHER ALLEGED THAT WALDHEIM HAD SIGNED ORDERS FOR THE DEPORTATION OF 10,000 PEOPLE TO LABOR CAMPS. PRESIDENT WALDHEIM'S SPOKESMAN GEROLD CHRISTIAN SHARPLY REJECTED "SUCH OLD AND UNPROVEN ACCUSATIONS". (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, ET. AL., JULY 10)

7. HUNDREDS OF AUSTRIANS ASK TO BE PLACED ON "WATCH-LIST"

ACCORDING TO A NEWS REPORT, HUNDREDS OF AUSTRIANS HAVE SIGNED A LETTER TO THE U.S. DOJ TO BE PLACED ON THE "WATCH-LIST". IN THE NOTE SEVERAL PROMINENT PUBLIC FIGURES SUCH AS A FORMER CABINET MINISTER, A CATHOLIC CHURCHLEADER, AND SEVERAL LEGISLATORS, EXPRESSED THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH PRESIDENT WALDHEIM, POINTING OUT THAT UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 VIENNA 10069

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THEY, TOO, WERE FORCED TO SERVE UNDER A CRIMINAL REGIME. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, JULY 10)

8. ANTI-SEMITISM:

-THE ENTIRE AUSTRIAN PRESS TODAY REPORTED ON YESTERDAY'S OVP PARTY RESOLUTION WHICH CALLED ON ALL AUSTRIANS TO JOIN THE OVP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM. (INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, ET.AL., ORF NEWS, JULY 10)
-A "DIE PRESSE" FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL STATED THAT "WE SHOULD BE DEEPLY CONCERNED" ABOUT THE "JUSTIFIED" FEARS OF ANTI-SEMITISM RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY THE VIENNA JEWISH

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COMMUNITY. THE PAPER'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF THOMAS CHORHERR
APPEALED TO ALL AUSTRIANS TO STIFLE ANY SUCH INCIDENTS.

(INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, JULY 10)

-SOCIALIST "AZ" REPORTED THAT THE JEWISH OWNERS OF A
GALLERY IN DOWNTOWN VIENNA DECIDED TO CLOSE THEIR BUSINESS
AFTER THEY RECEIVED A SERIES OF BOMB THREATS AND HAD BEEN
HARRASSED. (SOCIALIST AZ, JULY 10)

-REACTING TO A RECENT REPORT BY THE WEST GERMAN WEEKLY
"DER SPIEGEL" ON A RESURGENCE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN VIENNA,
A JOURNALIST OF THE OVP-AFFILIATED WEEKLY "WOCHENPRESSE"
STROLLED VIENNA FOR THREE DAYS DRESSED IN ORTHODOX JEWISH
CLOTHES. ACCORDING TO "WOCHENPRESSE", ITS "AGENT
PROVOCATEUR" DID NOT EXPERIENCE A SINGLE ANTI-JEWISH
INCIDENT.

-IN AN INTERVIEW WITH "DIE WOCHENPRESSE", ISRAELI DIPLOMAT
AND POLITICAL SCIENTIST SHLOMO AVINERI ATTACKED THE WORLD
JEWISH CONGRESS FOR NOT CONSULTING WITH ISRAEL AND THE
AUSTRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY PRIOR TO ITS ACTIONS IN THE
WALDHEIM AFFAIR. (INDEPENDENT WOCHENPRESSE, JULY 10)

9. CSSR LIFTS ENTRY BAN FOR AUSTRIAN JOURNALISTS PRIOR TO
FM MOCK'S VISIT TO PRAGUE:

SIX DAYS PRIOR TO FM ALOIS MOCK'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO
CZECHOSLOVAKIA JULY 16-17, PRAGUE HAS LIFTED THE ENTRY BAN
FOR TWO AUSTRIAN JOURNALISTS WORKING FOR THE NATIONAL TV
NETWORK ORF. MOCK SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT HIS VISIT
WOULD LEAD TO AN IMPROVEMENT OF BILATEAL RELATIONS. THE
CANCELLATION OF THE ENTRY BAN WAS INDICATIVE OF PRAGUE'S
GOOD-WILL, HE REMARKED. (ORF NEWS, INDEPENDENT KURIER,
JULY 10). BLOCH

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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