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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, AU  
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.144/87, FOR 08/07/87

1. VIENNA MAYOR AND VIENNA JEWISH LEADER REJECT  
"DEFAMATION" OF VIENNA AS "WORLD CAPITAL OF ANTI-SEMITISM":

IN A PUBLIC DEBATE ON WEDNESDAY, VIENNA MAYOR HELMUT ZILK  
AND THE HEAD OF THE VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY, PAUL GROSZ,  
CONDEMNED AS "DEFAMATORY" THE LABELLING OF VIENNA AS "THE  
WORLD CAPITAL OF ANTI-SEMITISM" BY FOREIGN MEDIA.

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RECALLING RECENT ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS IN VIENNA, GROSZ SAID, HOWEVER, THAT "ONE MUST NOT DENY WHAT HAS HAPPENED". HE PARTICULARLY CRITICIZED THE FACT THAT NONE OF THE 20 CASES OF ANTI-SEMITISM (BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AUTHORITIES) HAD LED TO ANY LEGAL ACTION. (ORF NEWS, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, AUG 7). --SPEAKING ON NATIONAL TV, CARITAS PRESIDENT PRELATE LEOPOLD UNGAR SAID HE BELIEVED THE DIMENSIONS OF "REAL ANTI-SEMITISM" IN AUSTRIA WERE BEING EXAGGERATED BY POLITICAL DILETTANTES TO SERVE BASE POLITICAL ENDS. (ORF NEWS, AUG 6,7, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, AUG 7)

2. POPE INVITES U.S. JEWISH LEADERS TO DISCUSS CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS:

ACCORDING TO WJC DIRECTOR ELAN STEINBERG, POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS INVITED "LEADING REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS" TO MEET WITH HIM (IN ROME AT THE END OF AUGUST) PRIOR TO HIS U.S. VISIT IN SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE CONTROVERSIAL WALDHEIM VISIT TO THE VATICAN WILL BE A CENTRAL ISSUE DURING THE MEETING, REPORTS NOTED. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, AUG 7)

3. YOUNG SOCIALISTS ATTACK PRESIDENT WALDHEIM:

THE FUTURE LEADER OF THE SPO'S YOUNG GENERATION, CHRISTIAN CAP, YESTERDAY SAID HE EXPECTS "A SERIES OF EMBARRASSING APPEARANCES" BY PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** DURING NEXT YEAR'S COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "ANSCHLUSS". CAP REMARKED THAT AUSTRIA DID NOT HAVE A "PRESENTABLE" PRESIDENT BUT RATHER ONE WHO HAD TO BE HIDDEN. HE REJECTED THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED ACCORD BETWEEN THE SPO AND THE OVP ON A JOINT APPROACH TO THE COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS IN 1988. THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS PREFERRED "SEPARATE ACTIVITIES" WHICH WOULD NOT OBFUSCATE HISTORICAL FACTS, CAP STATED. HE PROPOSED A SERIES OF ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT YEAR, E.G. RE-NAMING THE DR. KARL LUEGER RING (A PART OF VIENNA'S INNER CITY BOULEVARD) TO SIEGMUND FREUD RING, GIVEN LUEGER'S ANTI-SEMITIC REPUTATION. (ORF NEWS, AUG 6, SOCIALIST AZ, AUG 7)

4. POLITICIANS WORRIED OVER JOINT APPEARANCES OF PRESIDENT WALDHEIM AND (WALDHEIM CRITIC) FRIED AT UPCOMING LINZ MUSIC FESTIVAL:

SEVERAL POLITICIANS INDICATED THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT A POSSIBLE SCANDAL LIKELY TO RESULT FROM THE PLANNED JOINT APPEARANCES OF PRESIDENT WALDHEIM AND EXILED JEWISH POET ERICH FRIED, A FIERCE WALDHEIM CRITIC, AT THE OPENING OF LINZ'S "BRUCKNER FESTIVAL" IN SEPTEMBER. DEFENDING THE INVITATION TO FRIED TO GIVE THE OPENING SPEECH AT THE FESTIVAL, LINZ MAYOR HUGO SCHANOVSKY SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE FRIED PLANNED TO USE THE OCCASION TO ATTACK PRESIDENT WALDHEIM. SCHANOVSKY FURTHER SAID VICE MAYOR CARL HOEDL WILL ALSO ATTEND THE OPENING CEREMONY. HOWEVER, HOEDL SHOULD ONCE MORE "CLARIFY" HIS STAND

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REGARDING HIS CONTROVERSIAL LETTER TO BRONFMAN, SCHANOVSKY STATED. (ORF NEWS, AUG 6, INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, AUG 7)

5. CONSERVATIVE GREEN MP OUTRAGED OVER "FASCIST PHRASES" IN GREEN RADIO SPOT:

CONSERVATIVE GREEN LEGISLATOR JOSEF BUCHNER YESTERDAY SAID UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 11374

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HE WAS OUTRAGED OVER WHAT HE CALLED "FASCIST WORDING" USED IN A RADIO SPOT COMMISSIONED BY THE GREENS. (REFERRING TO A SERIES OF GOA PROJECTS OPPOSED BY THE GREEN PARTY, THE RADIO MESSAGE USED SUCH PHRASES AS "HE WHO BUYS MISSILES EATS LITTLE CHILDREN" OR: "HE WHO BUILDS HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS ON THE DANUBE EATS LITTLE CHILDREN" ETC.). BUCHNER ATTACKED THE PARAPHRASING OF "BLATANTLY ANTI-SEMITIC RETHORIC" AS "REMINISCIENT OF NAZI PROPAGANDA LITERATURE. THE GREEN LEADERSHIP HAS ALREADY DISTANCED ITSELF FROM THIS AD, CHAIRWOMEN FREDA MEISSNER BLAU SAID. THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL TV NETWORK ORF, WHICH AIRED THE SPOTS, EXPLAINED THAT IT DID NOT HAVE ANY INFLUENCE ON THE CONTENTS OF PAID ADS. (ORF AUG 6,7, INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, SOCIALIST AZ, AUG 7)

6. SPO DEFENSE SPOKESMAN CRITICAL OF DEFENSE MINISTER LICHAL'S ARMY PLANS:

SPO DEFENSE SPOKESMAN ALOIS ROPPERT YESTERDAY REJECTED DEFENSE MINISTER ROBERT LICHAL'S (OVP) PLANS TO EXTEND THE 8-MONTH PERIOD OF COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE. CRITICIZING LICHAL'S REPORTED PLANS TO REORGANIZE THE "STRUCTURE" OF THE AUSTRIAN MILITARY, ROPPERT SAID THE SPO WAS STRICTLY COMMITTED TO AUSTRIA'S NATIONAL DEFENSE, I.E. THE MILITIA-LIKE ARMY AND THE "AREA DEFENSE" CONCEPT. ON DEFENSIVE GUIDED MISSILES ROPPERT SAID NO ONE DOUBTED THE "MILITARY NECESSITY" OF SUCH DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT. EARLIER, FINANCE MINISTER FERDINAND LACINA REMARKED THAT THERE WAS NO MONEY IN THE 1988 BUDGET FOR THE MISSILES. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, SOCIALIST AZ, AUG 7)

7. ITALY ARRESTS 14 SOUTH TYROL ACTIVISTS:

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, ITALIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ARRESTED 14 SOUTH TYROLEANS WHO HAD CALLED FOR SOUTH TYROLEAN INDEPENDENCE IN BANNERS DISPLAYED AT THE OPENING OF THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN VIENNA LAST

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SEPTEMBER. ITALIAN AUTHORITIES JUSTIFIED THE ARRESTS BY REFERRING TO A 1930S LAW PASSED UNDER MUSSOLINI WHICH FORBIDS ANTI-ITALIAN ACTIVITIES ABROAD. THE AUSTRIAN MFA HAS INSTRUCTED THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR IN ROME TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER. (ORF NEWS, AUG 6, INDEPENDENT KURIER, AUG 7). LAUDER

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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