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BRUSSELS FOR USEC  
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JUSTICE FOR KORTEN AND SHER

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: PREL, ELAB, IR, PGOV, AU  
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.145/87, FOR 08/10/87

1. FORMER CHANCELLOR KREISKY ALLEGES SINOWATZ AIDE PASSED ANTI-WALDHEIM MATERIAL TO U.S. JOURNALISTS:

IN AN INTERVIEW FOR A SWISS PAPER, FORMER SPO CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY INDICATED THAT IN 1985 "AN AIDE" TO FORMER CHANCELLOR FRED SINOWATZ (SPO) HAD OFFERED INCRIMINATING MATERIAL ON THEN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE KURT WALDHEIM TO

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U.S. UPI JOURNALIST JAMES DORSEY. DORSEY CONFIRMED THE KREISKY STATEMENT BUT SAID HE HAD NOT ACCEPTED THE MATERIAL. KREISKY REMARKED THAT LATER HE HAD MET WITH ANOTHER U.S. JOURNALIST WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE RECEIVED "DOCUMENTS" ON WALDHEIM WITHOUT NAMING THE INFORMANT. COMMENTATORS SAY THIS "SOMEBODY" WAS CLEARLY HANS PUSCH, AIDE TO THEN CHANCELLOR AND CURRENT SPO PARTY LEADER SINOWATZ. --SINOWATZ AS WELL AS VIENNA SPO CHAIRMAN LEOPOLD GRATZ AND INTERIOR MINISTER KARL BLECHA STRESSED THE SPO HAD NEVER PASSED ANY SUCH MATERIAL TO ANYONE. --CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY CRITICIZED KREISKY FOR MAKING "AMBIGUOUS INSINUATIONS" WHICH VRANITZKY SAID WERE "TYPICAL OF HIM". --MOST NEWS COMMENTATORS SAID IT WAS NOW CLEAR THAT THE ANTI-WALDHEIM CAMPAIGN IN THE U.S. WAS SPARKED IN AUSTRIA BY CIRCLES AROUND SINOWATZ. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT KURIER, INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, ORF NEWS, AUG 8-10)

2. GOA LODGES DIPLOMATIC PROTEST AGAINST ARREST OF SOUTH TYROL ACTIVISTS:

IN A NOTE TO THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE GOA EXPRESSED "SURPRISE" AND "BEWILDERMENT" AT THE ARREST OF 17 SOUTH TYROL ACTIVISTS ACCUSED OF "ANTI-ITALIAN AGITATION OUTSIDE ITALY". (THE SOUTH TYROLEANS HAD DEMONSTRATED FOR SOUTH TYROLEAN AUTONOMY AT THE OPENING OF THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN VIENNA LAST NOVEMBER). FM ALOIS MOCK (OVP) CALLED ON ITALIAN AUTHORITIES TO CONSIDER THE "DANGEROUS POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES" OF THE DECISION. IT ALSO DREW SHARP CRITICISM FROM SPO, OVP AND FREEDOM PARTY SPOKESMEN. TYROLEAN GOVERNOR ALOIS PARTL (OVP) REACTED WITH "CONSTERNATION" TO THE ITALIAN DECISION WARNING THAT THE MOVE COULD FURTHER THE POSITION OF EXTREMISTS IN SOUTH TYROL. (ALL PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT TIROLER TAGESZEITUNG, ORF NEWS, AUG 8-10)

3. FORMER IRANIAN PRESIDENT BANI-SADR REPEATS CHARGES AGAINST PRESIDENT REAGAN IN INTERVIEW WITH AUSTRIAN DAILY:

IN A "KURIER" INTERVIEW IN PARIS, FORMER IRANIAN PRESIDENT BANI-SADR CLAIMED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S NEGOTIATORS RICHARD ALLEN AND ROBERT MCFARLANE HAD INTERVENED IN OCTOBER 1980 TO FORESTALL A RELEASE OF THE U.S. HOSTAGES IN IRAN BEFORE THE NOV 1980 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS TO PREVENT A CARTER VICTORY. BANI-SADR SAID HE LEARNED OF THIS INTERVENTION WHEN HE ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION INTO WHY A SEPTEMBER 1980 WEAPONS-FOR-HOSTAGES DEAL WITH THE U.S. WAS BEING STALLED. ON "IRANGATE" HE SAID THAT THE WEAPONS SHIPMENT UNCOVERED SO FAR WAS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG, AS WASHINGTON WAS ALSO SUPPLYING SPARE PARTS, RADAR SYSTEMS AND AMMUNITION VIA THAILAND, SOUTH KOREA AND ISRAEL. BANI-SADR SAID IRAN HAS ALREADY LOST THE WAR WITH IRAQ. HE DESCRIBED KHOMEINI AS "A POPE WHO HAS BEEN DESERTED BY HIS CARDINALS", UNABLE TO MOBILIZE THE MASSES AS HE USED TO. THE INCREASED INTERNATIONALIZATION AND RADICALIZATION WAS A PRODUCT OF AN INNER POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN HOSSEIN ALI MONTAZERI AND PARLIAMENTARY PRESIDENT

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RAFSANDJANI. (INDEPENDENT KURIER, AUG 9)

4. SIGNS OF U.S. GOOD-WILL TOWARD AUSTRIA:

ACCORDING TO A "DIE PRESSE" BACKGROUND PIECE, WASHINGTON'S OPEN SUPPORT FOR VIENNA'S EFFORTS TO HOST FUTURE DISARMAMENT FORA CAN BE TAKEN AS A CONCILIATORY MOVE ON UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 11473

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THE PART OF THE U.S.. THE RECENT DECISION TO KEEP THE SALZBURG CONSULATE GENERAL OPEN WAS ANOTHER EXPRESSION OF U.S. GOOD-WILL TOWARD AUSTRIA, EDITOR ANDREAS UNTERBERGER WROTE. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, AUG 10)

5. VIENNA COURT PASSES SUSPENDED SENTENCES FOR U.S. CITIZEN AND HIS AUSTRIAN ACCOMPLICE ACCUSED OF SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO LIBYAN EMBASSY IN VIENNA:

U.S. CITIZEN JAMES MEGIS AND AUSTRIAN BUSINESSMAN FRIEDRICH HASLINGER, WHO STOOD TRIAL IN VIENNA ON CHARGES OF SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO THE LIBYAN PEOPLES BUREAU IN VIENNA, RECEIVED SUSPENDED SENTENCES OF 15 AND 9 MONTHS RESPECTIVELY. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME, AUG 9)

6. RIFTS WITHIN GREENS DEEPEN:

POLITICAL BICKERING BETWEEN VGO (UNITED AUSTRIAN GREENS) CHAIRMAN JOSEF BUCHNER AND GREEN PARTY LEADER FREDA MEISSNER-BLAU OVER A CONTROVERSIAL RADIO SPOT CONTINUED OVER THE WEEKEND. (BUCHNER HAD ATTACKED MEISSNER-BLAU IN CONNECTION WITH WHAT HE CALLED "A LEFT-WING VERSION OF FASCIST SLOGANS" IN A GREEN-SPONSORED RADIO SPOT). WHILE BUCHNER ACCUSED MEISSNER-BLAU OF GIVING IN TO LEFT-WING EXTREMISTS AROUND HER, MEISSNER-BLAU SAID BUCHNER AND HIS VGO FOLLOWERS WERE "FLIRTING" WITH HAIDER'S RIGHT-WING FPO. (MOST PAPERS, E.G. INDEPENDENT KURIER, AUG 9)

7. LINZ DEPUTY MAYOR HOEDL EMPHASIZES HIS LETTER TO BRONFMAN NOT MEANT TO BE ANTI-SEMITIC:

IN AN INTERVIEW ON NATIONAL RADIO, LINZ DEPUTY MAYOR CARL HOEDL REGRETTED THAT HIS CONTROVERSIAL LETTER TO WJC PRESIDENT BRONFMAN IS BEING INTERPRETED AS "ANTI-SEMITIC". HOEDL STRESSED HE DID NOT WANT TO

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DELEGATE ANY GUILT TO ANYBODY. ASKED ABOUT THE NATION-WIDE CAMPAIGN FOR HIS RESIGNATION, HOEDL SAID HE HAS NOT THOUGHT ABOUT STEPPING DOWN. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, AUG 9)

8. ECONOMICS MINISTER ANNOUNCES LEGAL ACTION FOR MORE FLEXIBLE STORE HOURS:

ECONOMICS MINISTER ROBERT GRAF (OVP) AS ANNOUNCED AN INITIATIVE HE WILL PUT TO PARLIAMENT THIS FALL WHICH WOULD RESULT IN MORE FLEXIBLE STORE HOURS STARTING JAN 1, 1988. AT THE SAME TIME, OTHER OVP POLITICIANS OVER THE WEEKEND CALLED FOR AN END TO THE RIGID STORE OPENING HOURS. REFERRING TO A VIENNA BUSINESS WHICH HAS IGNORED LEGAL STANDARDS FOR STORE HOURS IN PROTEST OVER LACK OF ACTION IN THIS MATTER, VIENNA DEPUTY MAYOR ERHARD BUSEK (OVP) SAID HE WELCOMED SUCH "CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE". (INDEPENDENT KURIER, DIE PRESSE, KRONENZEITUNG, AUG 8-9).

9. TRANSPORT MINISTER PRESENTS PLAN TO EASE TRANSIT TRAFFIC BURDEN THROUGH AUSTRIA:

IN A PRESS CONFERENCE LAST FRIDAY, PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT MINISTER RUDOLF STREICHER PRESENTED A PLAN FOR REDUCING THE PROBLEMS OF TRANSIT TRAFFIC THROUGH TYROL. STREICHER'S PLAN CALLS FOR TRANSPORTING ALL TRUCKS BETWEEN MUNICH AND VERONA BY RAIL ONLY. THE RAIL AND TUNNEL PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO COST AUSTRIA'S NATIONALIZED RAILWAY SYSTEM OBB SEVERAL BILLION SCHILLINGS AND WOULD BE COMPLETED BY 1991. AUSTRIA IS SEEKING CO-FINANCING OF THE PROJECT FROM THE EC. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, AUG 8). LAUDER

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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