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TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA MEDIA REACTION

1. EVIDENCE OF THE CONTINUING PRESS ATTENTION TO **KURT WALDHEIM'S** WARTIME ACTIVITIES COMES IN THE THE FORM OF A "REVELATION" IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION OF WOCHENPRESSE (CIRC. 50,000): THAT THE CIA ATTEMPTED TO RECRUIT THE FORMER WEHRMACHT LIEUTENANT AT THE END OF THE WAR AS PART OF A GENERAL EFFORT TO PREVENT A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES. THE WOCHENPRESSE PIECE WAS PICKED UP BY THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S NEUE ARBEITERZEITUNG (CIRC. 70,000). MAJOR POINTS OF THE ARTICLE:

-- THAT A DOCUMENT DATED APRIL 26, 1945 EXISTS CONNECTING WALDHEIM TO THE CIA.

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Page 1

13 22089

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-- THAT WALDHEIM WAS RECRUITED AS A CIA INFORMANT DUE TO HIS INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF PARTISAN ACTIVITIES IN THE BALKANS, AND WAS THUS ABLE TO SERVE ALLIED INTERESTS IN SUPPORTING ANTI-COMMUNISTS AFTER FORMAL HOSTILITIES HAD CEASED.

-- THAT THE OPPORTUNITY EXISTED FOR SUCH RECRUITMENT IN MAY OF 1945 WHEN AMERICAN OFFICERS ATTACHED TO A BRITISH UNIT WERE IN THE SAME AREA AS WALDHEIM, WHO WAS SEPARATED FROM HIS UNIT AND IN THE VICINITY OF CARINTHIA AND TRIEST.

THROUGH A SPOKESMAN, WALDHEIM DENIES ANY CONNECTION TO THE CIA. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER KARL GRUEBER, FOR WHOM WALDHEIM WORKED AS SECRETARY AFTER THE WAR, EXPRESSES DOUBT ABOUT THE REPORT AS DOES FRITZ MOLDEN, AN AUSTRIAN WHO WAS THE SON-IN-LAW OF ALLEN DULLES. MOLDEN CALLS THE REPORT IMPROBABLE, BUT NOTES THAT "NOTHING CAN BE COMPLETELY RULED OUT."

-- THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE CIA DOCUMENT WAS THE RESULT OF INQUIRIES TO THE CIA BY CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN SOLARZ, WHO WAS LOOKING INTO THE WARTIME CAREER OF WALDHEIM AS EARLY AS NOVEMBER OF 1980, SHORTLY AFTER 'THE NEW REPUBLIC' REPORTED THAT WALDHEIM MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE "SLAUGHTER" OF JEWS ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT.

2. MEANWHILE, THE INFLUENTIAL CONSERVATIVE DAILY, DIE PRESSE (CIRC. 70,000), REPORTS ON THE DISCUSSION AMONG JOURNALISTS AND DIPLOMATS OVER HOW AUSTRIA SHOULD COMMEMORATE THE ANSCHLUSS. SOME EXCERPTS:

"WHILE THE IDEA OF A LARGE COMMEMORATION ON HEROES' SQUARE (IN VIENNA) WAS DEEMED BY NEARLY EVERYONE AT THE MEETING AS INAPPROPRIATE, A SUGGESTION BY THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, ERICH SCHMID, WAS UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED: THAT FOR EVERY AUSTRIAN VICTIM OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM, A CANDLE SHOULD BE LIT.

"ANOTHER SUGGESTION CAME FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY (AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.) KLESTIL: THAT AUSTRIA COULD FULFILL ITS DESIRE TO ONCE AGAIN BE HOME TO A LARGE JEWISH COMMUNITY BY OFFERING SOVIET JEWS THE CHANCE TO REMAIN IN AUSTRIA.

"...THE PARTICIPATING JOURNALISTS AGREED THAT AFTER TWO YEARS OF DISTRACTION, INTEREST IN FOREIGN POLICY IS ONCE AGAIN ON THE RISE.

"DIE PRESSE CHIEF EDITOR THOMAS CHORHERR CRITICIZED SOME MEDIA, SAYING THAT THERE STILL REMAINED INFLATED ANTI-WALDHEIM EMOTIONS. ARBEITERZEITUNG CHIEF EDITOR MANFRED SCHEUCH SAID THAT THE (PRE-OCCUPATION WITH WALDHEIM) WAS A NECESSARY ONE BECAUSE IN SOME NEWSPAPERS REPORTING ON THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR WAS BEING DOWNPLAYED. HANS RAUSCHER, CHIEF EDITOR OF THE KURIER (CIRC. 400,000), SAID THAT THE 'AFFAIR HOEDL' (THE VICE MAYOR

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OF LINZ COMPARED THE TREATMENT OF WALDHEIM TO THE PERSECUTION OF JESUS CHRIST BY THE ROMANS AND JEWS.) HAD SERIOUSLY HINDERED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE OF AUSTRIA."

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3. DIE PRESSE'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT MONICA RIEDLER REPORTED ON THE POPE'S UPCOMING TRIP TO THE U.S., NOTING THE PROBLEMS HE FACES WITH AMERICAN CATHOLICS:

"...TODAY MANY LIBERALS AMONG THE 53 MILLION AMERICAN CATHOLICS OPPOSE THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS IN SIX IMPORTANT AREAS:

-- ABORTION: MORE THAN A THIRD ARE FOR NO PUNISHMENT; MORE THAN A HALF APPROVE OF IT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

-- BIRTH CONTROL: THREE QUARTERS APPROVE THE USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES.

-- PRE-MARITAL SEX: TWO-THIRDS HAVE NOTHING AGAINST IT.

-- DIVORCE: MOST PEOPLE ASK THE CHURCH'S BLESSING FOR RE-MARRIED DIVORCEES.

-- HOMOSEXUALITY: AT LEAST 40 PER CENT ADVOCATE TOLERANCE FOR HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONS.

-- PRIESTHOOD: ABOUT HALF ARE AGAINST THE CHURCH'S EXCLUSION OF WOMEN AND MARRIED MEN FROM THE PRIESTHOOD."

O'CONNOR

ADMIN

END OF MESSAGE

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