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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORT ON AMB LAUDER'S FAREWELL DINNER
BY THE VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY

1. THE FAREWELL DINNER GIVEN BY THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS
COMMUNITY IN VIENNA FOR AMBASSADOR LAUDER WAS COVERED BY
AUSTRIAN TV, THE INDEPENDENT DAILY DIE PRESSE (
CIRCULATION 68.500) AND THE MASS-TABLOID DAILY NEUE
KRONENZEITUNG (CIRCULATION 958.000).
ON AUSTRIAN TV DURING THE FIRST CHANNEL NEWS "ZEIT IM
BILD" (VIEWERSHIP ESTIMATED AROUND 2.5 MILLION), CHIEF
EDITOR AND MODERATOR HORST FRIEDRICH MAYER SAID THAT "
AMBASSADOR LAUDER, WHO WILL NOW BE LEAVING AUSTRIA,
DIDNT'HAVE AN EASY TIME HERE-- THE DECISION TO PUT KURT
WALDHEIM ON THE WATCH-LIST HAD TO SOME EXTENT SHAKEN
US/AUSTRIAN RELATIONS DESPITE ASSURANCES FROM BOTH

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SIDES. LAUDER WILL NOW RUN FOR THE SENATE IN NEW YORK CITY". IN AN INTERVIEW AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, LAUDER WAS ASKED WHETHER HIS CRITICISM OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN AUSTRIA INCLUDES "ALL AUSTRIANS", AND WHETHER HE, AS US AMBASSADOR EXPERIENCED ANTI-SEMITISM. AMB. LAUDER STRESSED IN HIS ANSWER THAT HE DID NOT TALK ABOUT ALL AUSTRIANS, BUT ABOUT SOME, AND THAT HE, AS U.S. AMBASSADOR, HAD HAD NO ANTI-SEMITIC EXPERIENCE BUT HE DID HOWEVER ASSERT THAT THE LETTER BY LINZ VICE MAYOR HOEDL (TO WJC PRESIDENT BRONFMAN), WHICH WAS VERY ANTI-SEMITIC SHOULD HAVE RESULTED IN HOEDL'S RESIGNATION AND THAT THE AUSTRIANS SHOULD HAVE STRONGLY REACTED AGAINST THIS FORM OF ANTI-SEMITISM. LAUDER:" ...THE VICE MAYOR IS STILL IN OFFICE".

2. REPORTING ON THE FAREWELL DINNER, "DIE PRESSE" OF OCT. 21 POINTED OUT THAT THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT WAS REPRESENTED BY CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY, VICE CHANCELLOR ALOIS MOCK AND SCIENCE MINISTER HANS TUPPY. THE PAPER REPORTED THAT JEWISH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY PRESIDENT PAUL GROSZ "THANKED LAUDER FOR HAVING ASSISTED VIENNA'S SMALL JEWISH COMMUNITY SO INTENSIVELY. HE STRESSED, IN PARTICULAR, THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE CHIEF OF MISSION - BUT ALSO BY THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA - TO RUSSIAN JEWS STRANDED IN VIENNA." GROSZ ALSO SAID THAT LAUDER WAS ACCREDITED IN A DIFFICULT PERIOD WHEN, IN THE WAKE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, ANTI-SEMITISM FLARED AGAIN.

ACCORDING TO THIS ARTICLE IN "DIE PRESSE," "IT BECAME KNOWN ON THE OCCASION OF THE DINNER THAT LAUDER HAS TURNED DOWN SEVERAL DATES SUGGESTED BY MOCK FOR THE INVITATION CUSTOMARILY EXTENDED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO IMPORTANT AMBASSADORS. THE AMBASSADOR IS NOT LIKELY TO MEET AT ALL WITH THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT (WALDHEIM). SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THIS, SO TO SPEAK, SEMI-OFFICIAL FAREWELL TO THE DIPLOMAT BY THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, AUSTRIA HAS GIVEN ITS AGREEMENT TO THE FUTURE U.S. AMBASSADOR, GRUNWALD. GROSZ EXPECTS FROM GRUNWALD 'LESS PUBLICITY'."

3. UNDER THE PAGE 8 HEADLINE "TWO COUNTRIES, ONE MISTAKE," VIENNA'S INDEPENDENT, MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID "KRONEN-ZEITUNG" OF OCT. 21 CARRIED A COMMENTARY BY AUSTRIA'S MOST WIDELY READ COLUMNIST, "STABERL" (PEN NAME OF RICHARD NIMMERRICHTER). THIS ARTICLE IS EXCERPTED BELOW.

"AMERICAN AMBASSADOR RONALD LAUDER WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE GUINNESS' BOOK OF RECORDS FOR HAVING SERVED LONGEST. THIS DIPLOMAT FROM THE WORLD-FAMOUS PERFUME DYNASTY, WHO BECAME WASHINGTON'S REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENNA AS THE SUCCESSOR OF THE ALWAYS VERY ACTIVE HELENE VON DAMM, HAS ENDURED THIS ASSIGNMENT FOR ONLY 18 MONTHS. HE RECENTLY GAVE TWO INTERVIEWS IN AMERICA, TO THE EFFECT THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, ALL THE AUSTRIANS ARE INCORRIGIBLE ANTI-SEMITES.

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"NOW, BEFORE THE JEWISH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AND THUS, NATURALLY, ON AUSTRIAN TERRITORY, LAUDER'S TONE WAS DIFFERENT. CHATTING PLEASANTLY, HE SAID WHAT HE HAD REALLY WANTED TO SAY WAS THAT MANY AUSTRIANS, PERHAPS EVEN THE MAJORITY, ARE ANTI-SEMITES, BUT THAT THIS DOES NOT RULE OUT THAT OTHER AUSTRIANS ARE BY NO MEANS UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 14634

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ANTI-SEMITES. THEY HAVE EVEN RAISED THEIR VOICES AGAINST ALL FORMS OF ANTI-SEMITISM.

"WHAT LAUDER SAYS EVIDENTLY DEPENDS ON THE AUDIENCE HE HAS. HE MEETS THE DEMAND. BE THAT AS IT MAY, HE WAS KIND ENOUGH TO TELL US WHAT, AFTER STAYING IN AUSTRIA FOR ONLY 18 MONTHS, HAS PROMPTED HIM TO SUSPECT THIS COUNTRY OF BEING A HOTBED OF ANTI-SEMITES. AMBASSADOR LAUDER HAS EXPLAINED TO US THAT THE REMARKS MADE BY LINZ VICE MAYOR (CARL) HOEDL IN HIS LETTER TO WJC PRESIDENT BRONFMAN HAD SHOCKED HIM AND MADE HIM REALIZE WHAT THE REAL SITUATION IN AUSTRIA WAS.

"BY JUDGING A COUNTRY BY THE STUPID STATEMENT OF ONE OF ITS CITIZENS, LAUDER HAS COMMITTED THE SAME MISTAKE MANY AUSTRIANS HAVE MADE BECAUSE OF THE HARDLY LESS STUPID ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS. BY REGARDING THE LETTER FROM A POLITICIAN - WHO RIGHTLY IS ALMOST UNKNOWN IN AUSTRIA - AS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE FRAME OF MIND OF ALL THE AUSTRIANS, LAUDER BEHAVES THE SAME WAY AS THOSE AUSTRIANS WHO THINK THAT THE PRIVATE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION, WHICH BOMBASTICALLY AND MISLEADINGLY CALLS ITSELF 'WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS,' REPRESENTS ALL THE JEWS IN THE WORLD.

"TWO COUNTRIES - ONE MISTAKE!" O'CONNOR

ADMIN

END OF MESSAGE

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