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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO. 189/87, FOR 11/17/87

1. WALDHEIM COMMISSION: THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY AND FOREIGN MINISTER ALOIS MOCK REGARDING THE MANDATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF HISTORIANS WHICH IS INVESTIGATING KURT WALDHEIM'S WARTIME PAST. WHILE MOCK THINKS THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD DETERMINE WHETHER WALDHEIM WAS "PERSONALLY CULPABLE," THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY CALLS ATTENTION TO THE AUSTRIAN CABINET'S DECISION OF MAY 18, 1987, THAT IT IS THE COMMISSION'S TASK "AGAIN TO EXAMINE AND EVALUATE THE WHOLE MATERIAL IN THE LIGHT OF THE CHARGES LEVELED AGAINST THE FEDERAL

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PRESIDENT." THIS MEANS THAT THE INTERNAL DISPUTE OVER WALDHEIM WILL CONTINUE NEXT SPRING AS SHARPLY AS EVER, WITH THE SOCIALISTS INSISTING ON EXAMINATION OF WHETHER WALDHEIM KNEW ABOUT NAZI ATROCITIES AND WHY THERE ARE GAPS IN HIS BIOGRAPHY. (DIE PRESSE FRONT PAGE ARTICLE AND PAGE 2 EDITORIAL)

2. GRAFF INTERVIEW ON WALDHEIM: IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE FRENCH NEWSMAGAZINE "L'EXPRESS," PEOPLE'S PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL MICHAEL GRAFF REMARKED THAT "AS LONG AS THERE IS NO PROOF THAT HE (WALDHEIM) STRANGLED SIX JEWS WITH HIS OWN HANDS, THERE IS NO PROBLEM." ASKED BY THE "NEUE AZ" IF HE HAD REALLY SAID THAT, GRAFF REPLIED "WELL, THAT'S A DRASTIC FORMULATION WHICH, IN THIS OR A SIMILAR WAY, I PERHAPS USED IN THE COURSE OF THE TWO-HOUR INTERVIEW." (SOCIALIST NEUE AZ. THE SAME PAPER WONDERED EDITORIALY IF THE STANDARD FOR AN AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT IS SO LOW THAT NO PROBLEM IS SEEN AS LONG AS HE IS NOT A MURDERER.)

3. WIESENTHAL INTERVIEW ON WALDHEIM: INTERVIEWED BY THE FRENCH NEWSMAGAZINE "L'EXPRESS," SIMON WIESENTHAL HAS CRITICIZED THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS BECAUSE OF WALDHEIM. HE SAID THAT "THE AMERICANS WOULD NEVER HAVE ACCEPTED THE WATERGATE SCANDAL IF THE ACCUSATIONS HAD BEEN MADE FROM ABROAD." IN WIESENTHAL'S OPINION, IT WAS WRONG TO START ACCUSING WALDHEIM BEFORE FILES ESTABLISHING HIS GUILT WERE COMPILED. (DIE PRESSE, PAGE 2)

4. CASE OF ANTI-SEMITISM: THE OWNERS OF A JEWISH ART GALLERY IN VIENNA, PAINTER ELSA OLIVIA URBACH AND HER HUSBAND DAVID PETER HALATSCH, HAVE DECIDED TO EMIGRATE TO MUNICH. WHILE LIVING IN VIENNA THEY EXPERIENCED NAZI DAUBING ACTIONS, RECEIVED THREATENING PHONE CALLS, AND WERE REVILED AND SPAT AT IN THE STREETS. (MAJOR ARTICLE IN KURIER)

5. AFGHAN EMBASSY: THE KABUL REGIME HAS ESTABLISHED AN EMBASSY IN VIENNA, HEADED BY A CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. THERE WERE PROTESTS AGAINST THIS MEASURE ON THE GROUND THAT THE KABUL REGIME DOES NOT REALLY REPRESENT THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS OF THE OPINION, HOWEVER, THAT VIENNA IS A U.N. CITY AND THAT AUSTRIA, THEREFORE, MUST RESPECT THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY. INFORMED CIRCLES IN VIENNA NOW EXPECT EFFORTS BY AFGHAN RESISTANCE GROUPS TO SET UP INFORMATION OFFICES HERE. (DIE PRESSE, FRONT PAGE. THE SAME PAPER POINTED OUT IN A PAGE 3 BACKGROUNDER THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MOCK REGARDS AUSTRIAN CONSENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFGHAN EMBASSY AS INEVITABLE BECAUSE AUSTRIA, TOO, HAS A DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN KABUL, HEADED BY A CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. DIE PRESSE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT, HOWEVER, THAT FLOOR LEADER FRITZ KOENIG OF MOCK'S OWN PEOPLE'S PARTY HAD SUGGESTED CLOSING THE AUSTRIAN MISSION IN KABUL SO THAT THE AFGHAN REGIME WOULD HAVE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ESTABLISHING A MISSION

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IN VIENNA.)

6. SOVIET VISITOR COMMENTS ON YELTSIN: AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN VIENNA YESTERDAY, "IZVESTIA" EDITOR IVAN LAPTYEV DENIED THAT FORMER MOSCOW MAYOR BORIS YELTSIN HAS SUFFERED A SERIOUS HEART ATTACK. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT YELTSIN IS HOSPITALIZED, RECOVERING FROM STRESS. LAPTYEV REGARDS IT AS POSSIBLE THAT YELTSIN, WHO IS UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 15793

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"VERY COMMITTED TO OUR CAUSE," WILL ONCE AGAIN RECEIVE A HIGH-RANKING ASSIGNMENT. (NEUE AZ, KURIER AND OTHER PAPERS)

7. SOUTH AFRICA EMBARGO: THE U.N. COMMISSION SUPERVISING THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WILL PRESUMABLY CONDEMN AUSTRIA. A FACTORY ESTABLISHED BY AN UPPER AUSTRIAN FIRM, "HB AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES," IS TO BE OPENED IN THE CISKEI HOMELAND BY THE END OF THIS MONTH. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT, THE "HB-23" MOTOR GLIDERS PRODUCED BY THIS FIRM ARE SUITABLE FOR MILITARY SURVEILLANCE, MEETING EXACTLY THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY AND POLICE. (SOCIALIST NEUE AZ, PAGE 6. THE BIGGEST HEADLINE IN COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME READ: "AUSTRIA HELPS PRETORIA: VIOLATION OF ARMS EMBARGO.")

8. BUDGET FOR REFUGEES: IN ORDER TO LIVE UP TO ITS REPUTATION AS A GATE TO THE WEST, AUSTRIA WILL INCREASE ITS BUDGET FOR REFUGEES BY 31.33 PERCENT FOR A TOTAL OF 583.4 MILLION SCHILLINGS IN 1988. THE INFLUX OF REFUGEES IS LIKELY TO INCREASE BECAUSE VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR POLISH CITIZENS WISHING TO ENTER AUSTRIA WILL BE LIFTED ON JANUARY 1. (KRONEN-ZEITUNG, PAGE 3)

9. RESEARCH BUDGET: WHEN IT IS INCREASED BY 6.52 PERCENT, AUSTRIA'S BUDGET FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WILL FOR THE FIRST TIME BE LARGER THAN 20 BILLION SCHILLINGS. SCIENCE MINISTER HANS TUPPY HAS POINTED OUT THAT THIS BUDGET WILL THUS AMOUNT TO 1.35 PERCENT OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT. HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE OBJECTIVE SET BY THE GOVERNMENT -- AN INCREASE TO 1.5 PERCENT OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN 1990 -- CAN BE ATTAINED. (DIE PRESSE, PAGE 4) O'CONNOR

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END OF MESSAGE

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