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TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO. 200, FOR DEC. 3,  
1987

1. CAMBODIA TALKS: LEOPOLD GRATZ, PRESIDENT OF THE  
AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE U.N. CONFERENCE ON  
CAMBODIA, HAS WELCOMED THE PARIS TALKS BETWEEN PRINCE  
NORODOM SIHANOUK AND VIETNAM-SUPPORTED CAMBODIAN PREMIER  
HUN SEN. GRATZ WILL MEET WITH SIHANOUK IN TEN DAYS IN  
PARIS. DEPENDING ON THE RESULTS OF THIS TALK AND OF HIS  
CONTACTS WITH THE ASEAN GROUP OF STATES, GRATZ MAY VISIT  
INDONESIA, THAILAND NEXT FEBRUARY, AND POSSIBLY VIETNAM  
AS WELL. (DIE PRESSE)

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2. WALDHEIM HISTORIANS: ACCORDING TO CHAIRMAN HANS-RUDOLF KURZ, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF HISTORIANS INVESTIGATING KURT WALDHEIM'S WARTIME PAST HOPES TO PRESENT ITS FINAL REPORT AT THE END OF JANUARY. THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO QUESTION WALDHEIM, BUT NOT BEFORE JANUARY. MEANWHILE, WALDHEIM'S OFFICE HAS DENIED ALLEGATIONS BY THE ITALIAN PERIODICAL "HISTORIA" THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN THE DEPORTATION OF THOUSANDS OF ITALIAN PRISONERS IN 1943. (DIE PRESSE)

3. SOCIALIST OPINION: UNDERSECRETARY JOHANNA DOHNAL, ONE OF SOCIALIST PARTY CHAIRMAN FRED SINOWATZ'S DEPUTIES, THINKS THAT -- REGARDING WALDHEIM -- "ANYTHING WOULD BE BETTER THAN THE PRESENT SITUATION." IN HER OPINION, IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT IF THE PEOPLE'S PARTY NOMINATED A NEW AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT WHO WOULD THEN BE ELECTED BY BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT. (WIENER ZEITUNG)

4. SOCIALISTS AND FREEDOM PARTY: THERE IS DISAGREEMENT AMONG SOCIALIST LEADERS AS TO THEIR APPROACH TO THE FREEDOM PARTY. CENTRAL SECRETARY HEINRICH KELLER HAS AGAIN WARNED AGAINST ANY COOPERATION WITH THE FREEDOM PARTY, BUT INTERIOR MINISTER KARL BLECHA -- SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF HIS PARTY'S LOWER AUSTRIAN ORGANIZATION -- THINKS THAT FREEDOM OF ACTION SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. THE LOWER AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS HAVE BEEN FLIRTING WITH THE IDEA OF VIRTUALLY OVERTHROWING SIEGFRIED LUDWIG, THE PEOPLE'S PARTY GOVERNOR OF LOWER AUSTRIA, BY FORMING A COALITION WITH THE FREEDOM PARTY AFTER THE NEXT PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS. BLECHA, TOO, RULES OUT THE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT A COALITION WILL EVER BE FORMED WITH THE FREEDOM PARTY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AS LONG AS THAT PARTY IS CHAIRED BY JOERG HAIDER. (DIE PRESSE)

5. SLOVENE MINORITY: THE SCHOOL SYSTEM FOR SLOVENE-SPEAKING CHILDREN IN SOUTHERN CARINTHIA IS NOT JUST A SCHOOL QUESTION, BUT A POLITICAL ISSUE AS WELL, SOCIALIST PARTY CENTRAL SECRETARY HEINRICH KELLER HAS POINTED OUT. HE SAID THAT HIS PARTY WOULD WELCOME CHANGES IN THE NEW SYSTEM JOINTLY WORKED OUT BY THE TWO COALITION PARTIES AND THE FREEDOM PARTY. AFTER ITS DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT, THIS SYSTEM WILL PROBABLY BE QUITE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT IS NOW, KELLER SAID. MEANWHILE, THE ORGANIZATION OF SLOVENE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN AUSTRIA HAS SHARPLY REJECTED ANY COMPROMISE WITH THE NEW SYSTEM WHICH, IN THEIR OPINION, PROVIDES FOR VIRTUAL SEGREGATION. ALFRED GUSENBAUER, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE "SOCIALIST YOUTH" ORGANIZATION, SAID THAT MAKING DECISIONS WITHOUT SLOVENE APPROVAL BELIES AUSTRIA'S THEORY THAT THIS COUNTRY IS MATURE ENOUGH FOR A UNITED EUROPE. (WIENER ZEITUNG) O'CONNOR

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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