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TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO. 19/88, FOR FEB. 1, 1988

1. WALDHEIM DEVELOPMENTS: THE WEST GERMAN MAGAZINE "DER SPIEGEL" PUBLISHED A DOCUMENT TODAY WHICH IT REGARDS AS PROOF THAT PRESIDENT WALDHEIM WAS INVOLVED IN WAR CRIMES. IT IS A TELEGRAM SAYING THAT WALDHEIM ORDERED THE DEPORTATION OF MORE THAN 4,000 INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE KOZARA IN 1942. WALDHEIM'S SPOKESMAN GEROLD CHRISTIAN CALLED THE DOCUMENT AN "APPARENT FORGERY." THE "SPIEGEL" MAGAZINE HAD RECEIVED THE DOCUMENT FROM THE RETIRED HEAD OF THE BELGRADE MILITARY

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ARCHIVE, DUSAN PLENCA, WHO INSISTS IT IS GENUINE. MANFRED MESSERSCHMIDT, THE WEST GERMAN MEMBER OF THE HISTORIANS' COMMISSION INVESTIGATING KURT WALDHEIM'S WARTIME PAST, COMMENTED THAT, IF IT IS GENUINE, THE DOCUMENT PUTS WALDHEIM "VERY CLOSE" TO WAR CRIMES. THE COMMISSION IS LIKELY TO POSTPONE ITS REPORT, WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ON FEB. 8, IN ORDER TO CHECK ON THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE DOCUMENT. MESSERSCHMIDT WILL TRAVEL TO ZAGREB TODAY FOR THAT PURPOSE. (PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA)

OVER THE WEEKEND, FORMER YUGOSLAV DIPLOMAT ANTON KOLENDIC CLAIMED THAT HE ALSO HOLDS DOCUMENTS PROVING WALDHEIM'S "RESPONSIBILITY" FOR CERTAIN NATIONAL SOCIALIST ACTS OF REPRESSION IN YUGOSLAVIA. ACCORDING TO KOLENDIC, WHO WAS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY MISSION IN VIENNA AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, WALDHEIM WAS INVOLVED IN "PACIFICATION MEASURES" IN THE KOZARA MOUNTAINS IN WEST BOSNIA. (NEUE ARBEITERZEITUNG, P.2)

2. ANDROSCH RESIGNATION: THE SUPERVISORY BOARD OF THE CREDITANSTALT UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED HANNES ANDROSCH'S OFFER OF RESIGNATION FRIDAY AFTERNOON (FOLLOWING THE COURT SENTENCE PASSED AGAINST HIM A WEEK EARLIER). CHAIRMAN BOCK STATED AFTER THE BOARD MEETING THAT ANDROSCH'S REQUEST FOR A PENSION AND A BONUS WILL BE MET. THE BOARD'S DECISION WAS PRECEDED BY LONG DISCUSSIONS, IN WHICH THE QUESTION OF ANDROSCH'S SUCCESSOR AS HEAD OF THE BANK WAS NOT MENTIONED, HOWEVER. (DIE PRESSE, JAN. 30/31, P.1) THE DECISION WAS HEAVILY CRITICIZED BY FREEDOM PARTY CHAIRMAN JORG HAIDER. IN A PRESS RELEASE HE SAID THAT THE FACT THAT ANDROSCH WILL RECEIVE MILLIONS ON LEAVING THE BANK IS A MOCKERY TO ALL RIGHTEOUS CITIZENS. (SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN, P.5)

3. VRANITZKY ON GOVERNMENT COALITION: IN A RADIO INTERVIEW AIRED ON SATURDAY, FEDERAL CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY SAID THAT THERE IS NO CRISIS IN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION, BUT THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS. VRANITZKY WAS SPEAKING AFTER FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH VICE CHANCELLOR MOCK ON THE FINANCING OF THE TAX REFORM PROJECT BROUGHT NO APPARENT RESULT. (WIENER ZEITUNG, JAN. 30, P.1)

4. VOEST ARMS SCANDAL: THE ILLEGAL ARMS SHIPMENTS OF (NATIONALIZED) VOEST SUBSIDIARY NORICUM HAVE LED TO A DEBATE ABOUT THE LAW GOVERNING ARMS EXPORTS. FREEDOM PARTY SPOKESMAN HELMUT KRÖNES SAID THAT AUSTRIA CAN NO LONGER HIDE BEHIND VERY STRICT EXPORT LAWS WHILE DELIVERING THE GOODS ALL THE SAME. WENDELIN ETTMAYER, SECURITY SPOKESMAN OF THE (CONSERVATIVE) PEOPLE'S PARTY CALLED FOR AN UNAMBIGUOUS GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE, AND FINANCE MINISTER FERDINAND LACINA SUGGESTED THAT THE WEAPON COMPANY NORICUM SHOULD BE DE-NATIONALIZED, SINCE ARMS DEALS OUGHT NOT TO BE DONE BY BUSINESSES CONNECTED WITH THE STATE. (SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN, P.5) O'CONNOR

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