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TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO. 20/88, FOR FEB. 2, 1988

1. WALDHEIM DEVELOPMENTS: THE REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE GERMAN NEWSWEEKLY "DER SPIEGEL" BASED ON A DOCUMENT SUPPLIED BY YUGOSLAV HISTORIAN DUSAN PLENCA CONTINUES TO EXCITE ATTENTION. (PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA) - GERMAN HISTORIAN MANFRED MESSERSCHMIDT, A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION INVESTIGATING KURT WALDHEIM'S WARTIME PAST, LEFT FOR ZAGREB YESTERDAY TO SEARCH FOR THE DOCUMENT. HE CALLED THE SITUATION "NEBULOUS", SINCE THE DOCUMENT SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THE ZAGREB

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ARCHIVES. (SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN, P.1) - ONE EXPLANATION WOULD BE THAT PLENCA HIMSELF IS IN POSSESSION OF THE DOCUMENT. PLENCA REJECTED A CLAIM MADE BY THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE THAT THE DOCUMENT IS AN "APPARENT FORGERY" AND SAID HE WOULD SUE WALDHEIM'S SPOKESMAN GEROLD CHRISTIAN FOR LIBEL. (KURIER, P.2) - THERE WERE ALSO POLITICAL REACTIONS: SOCIALIST PARTY FLOOR LEADER FISCHER SAID ONE COULD "NOT TAKE THE MATTER LIGHTLY." ACCORDING TO FISCHER, IT WOULD BE "NO TRIFLE" IF ONE CALLED A THING A FORGERY THAT TURNED OUT TO BE GENUINE AFTERWARD. PEOPLE'S PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL KUKACKA VOICED HIS DOUBTS: "IT IS A CRUDE FORGERY OR MANIPULATION." FREEDOM PARTY CHAIRMAN HAIDER SAID WALDHEIM IS BEING USED AS A "SCAPEGOAT." HISTORIAN DUSAN PLENCA REFUSES TO PRESENT THE DOCUMENT TO THE COMMISSION AND SAYS HE WILL ONLY SUBMIT IT TO A COURT OF JUSTICE. (NEUE ARBEITERZEITUNG, P.3)

2. IRAN ARMS DEAL: WHILE THE ILLEGAL CANNON SHIPMENTS OF VOEST SUBSIDIARY NORICUM HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIATED BY CONFESSIONS - THE VOEST INTERNAL AUDITING REPORT SAYS 140 CANNONS WERE SUPPLIED TO IRAN - THERE ARE NOW SUSPICIONS THAT THE NATIONALIZED AMMUNITION FACTORY HIRTENBERGER ALSO DELIVERED SUPPLIES TO IRAN IN AUGUST 1986. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM THE JUDICIARY HIRTENBERGER RECEIVED PERMISSION TO EXPORT MORE THAN 22,000 SHELLS FOR THE GHN 45 CANNON, A NORICUM PRODUCT, TO THAILAND. AN INVESTIGATION WAS ORDERED, AND THE REPORT FROM AUSTRIA'S AMBASSADOR IN BANGKOK MAKES IT HIGHLY LIKELY THAT THE EXPORT TO THAILAND WAS ONLY A COVER-UP. (KURIER, P.2) - PETER PILZ, PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREEN PARTY, AGAIN CALLED FOR A PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY TO FIND OUT WHETHER POLITICIANS WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEAL. HE CITED A TELEGRAM WHICH WAS SENT IN AUGUST 1987 FROM THE EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD TO FOREIGN MINISTER MOCK TO PROVE THAT THE ARMS SHIPMENTS TO IRAN WERE CONTINUED IN 1986. (DIE PRESSE, P.1)

3. VRANITZKY VISIT TO SWITZERLAND: CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY STARTED HIS OFFICIAL TWO-DAY VISIT TO SWITZERLAND YESTERDAY. THE MAIN ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED ARE BILATERAL QUESTIONS, EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, CSCE AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS. THE TWO SMALL STATES HAVE MANY THINGS IN COMMON: NEUTRALITY, EFTA MEMBERSHIP AND THE PRESENT EFFORTS TO MOVE CLOSER TO THE EUROPEAN MARKET. (WIENER ZEITUNG, P.1)

4. INTERIOR MINISTRY REPORT: INTERIOR MINISTER BLECHA PRESENTED A REPORT ON THE 1987 ACTIVITIES OF HIS MINISTRY, WHICH HE CALLED "VERY SUCCESSFUL." "THE DOWNWARD TREND (OF THE CRIME FIGURES) HAS CONTINUED," HE SAID. CRIME DIMINISHED BY 3.5 PERCENT, MISDEMEANORS BY 5.1 PERCENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1987. ATTEMPTS OF SOUTH AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS TO DIRECT COCAINE SMUGGLING VIA AUSTRIA HAVE BEEN THWARTED, SAID BLECHA, AND THE CROSS-BOUNDARY FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM WAS MUCH HELPED BY AUSTRIA'S COOPERATION WITH THE "TREVI GROUP", THE

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SECURITY FORUM OF THE EC. (DIE PRESSE, P.12) O'CONNOR

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