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TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO. 22/88, FOR FEB. 04,
1988

1. WALDHEIM DEVELOPMENTS: THE ORIGINAL OF THE DOCUMENT
PUBLISHED BY THE GERMAN MAGAZINE "DER SPIEGEL", WHICH
PURPORTS TO BE A TELEGRAM ORDERING THE DEPORTATION OF
CIVILIANS ON BEHALF OF LIEUTENANT KURT WALDHEIM, COULD
NOT BE FOUND IN EITHER ZAGREB OR BELGRADE ARCHIVES.
YUGOSLAV HISTORIAN DUSAN PLENCA, WHO SUPPLIED A COPY OF
THE DOCUMENT TO "DER SPIEGEL", APPARENTLY DOES NOT HAVE
IT EITHER. HANS RUDOLF KURZ, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION
INVESTIGATING KURT WALDHEIM'S PAST, HAS ASKED THE

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YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT FOR HELP IN THE SEARCH FOR THE ORIGINAL. IN A "KURIER" INTERVIEW, WALDHEIM SAID: "EVEN IF THE TELEGRAM TURNS OUT TO BE GENUINE, ONE HAS TO LOOK CLOSELY AT THE NATURE OF THESE TRANSPORTS. THERE WERE REFUGEES AND POWS IN EVERY WAR. AND IN THIS CASE, THERE WERE REFUGEES FLEEING THE COMBAT ZONE OF KOZARA, WHO WERE THEN BROUGHT TO CAMPS. FROM THAT, ONE CANNOT DRAW ANY CONCLUSION LINKING ME WITH WAR CRIMES." THIS MEANS THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT TOTALLY DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE DOCUMENT IS AUTHENTIC... (KURIER, P.2)

2. GRUNWALD VISITS BLECHA: ACCORDING TO A PRESS RELEASE OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, U.S. AMBASSADOR HENRY GRUNWALD VISITED INTERIOR MINISTER BLECHA IN HIS OFFICE YESTERDAY. IN THE COURSE OF A LENGTHY CONVERSATION, QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO BOTH AUSTRIA AND THE U.S. WERE DISCUSSED. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN A VERY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. AMBASSADOR GRUNWALD CONFIRMED NEWS REPORTS THAT U.S. CITIZEN PETER QUINTUS, BORN NEAR BELGRADE ON APRIL 18, 1915, IS PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN A TRIAL WHICH COULD RESULT IN HIS EXTRADITION. MINISTER BLECHA TOLD THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR THAT AUSTRIA IS NOT PREPARED "TO BECOME A REFUGE FOR WAR CRIMINALS." ACCORDING TO BLECHA, THERE IS TO BE NO REPETITION OF THE BARTESCH CASE AND THE PRECIPITATE "NACHT UND NEBEL" MANNER WITH WHICH IT WAS HANDLED. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES IN OPINION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND AUSTRIA REGARDING THE "RE-ADMISSIBILITY DECLARATION" OF 1954. (PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA)

3. VRANITZKY VISIT TO FRANCE: DURING HIS UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE, CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY IS GOING TO MEET FRENCH PREMIER CHIRAC AFTER ALL, AS WAS ANNOUNCED BY CHIRAC'S OFFICE. VRANITZKY, WHO IS VISITING PARIS TO DELIVER A LECTURE AT THE FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON "THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION OF AUSTRIAN POLITICS", WILL ALSO MEET WITH PRESIDENT MITTERAND AND OECD SECRETARY GENERAL JEAN-CLAUDE PAYE. (WIENER ZEITUNG, P.1)

4. POVERTY IN AUSTRIA: A SURVEY PRESENTED BY THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN OF THE GREEN PARLIAMENTARY FACTION, MANFRED SRB, SAYS THAT ABOUT 1 MILLION AUSTRIAN CITIZENS LIVE BELOW POVERTY LEVEL, WHICH THE SURVEY SETS AT A MONTHLY INCOME OF 7,500 AUSTRIAN SCHILLINGS. SRB CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS "IDLENESS" CONCERNING THE PROBLEM OF "NEW POVERTY", WHICH DOES NOT FIT INTO GOVERNMENT POLICIES, HE SAID. (DIE PRESSE, P.4)
O'CONNOR

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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