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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO. 30/88, FOR FEB. 17,
1988

1. WALDHEIM OPINION POLL: THE OGM POLLING INSTITUTE
CARRIED OUT A SURVEY AMONG A SAMPLE OF 449 VOTERS FOR
"DIE PRESSE" SHORTLY AFTER PRESIDENT WALDHEIM'S
TELEVISED SPEECH ON MONDAY EVENING. FOUR OUT OF TEN
PERSONS HAD SEEN THE SPEECH, AND THERE IS A PLURALITY
FOR HIS REMAINING IN OFFICE, BUT IF ELECTIONS WERE HELD
NEXT SUNDAY, HE WOULD LOSE. 37 PERCENT OF THE SAMPLE
ARE IN FAVOR OF HIS RESIGNATION, 46 PERCENT AGAINST.
WHEREAS WALDHEIM STILL FINDS A 62 PERCENT MAJORITY OF

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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SUPPORTERS IN VILLAGES AND SMALL TOWNS, 46 PERCENT THINK HE SHOULD RESIGN IN THE BIGGER CITIES (42 PERCENT IN THE CAPITAL). IN VIENNA, 31 PERCENT OF THE VOTING POPULATION ARE UNDECIDED, ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY. TO THE QUESTION "ASSUMING THERE WERE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS NEXT SUNDAY AND **KURT WALDHEIM** WERE A CANDIDATE AGAIN, WOULD YOU VOTE FOR OR AGAINST HIM?" 45 PERCENT GAVE A NEGATIVE REPLY, WHEREAS 34 PERCENT SAID THEY WOULD VOTE FOR HIM. (DIE PRESSE, P. 1)

2. VRANITZKY STATEMENT: IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AFTER THE CABINET MEETING YESTERDAY, CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY REFERRED TO WALDHEIM'S TV ADDRESS BY SAYING "ONE SPEECH WON'T BE ENOUGH - ESPECIALLY NOT THIS ONE." VRANITZKY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE WALDHEIM DISCUSSION IS NO LONGER FOCUSED ON THE WARTIME PAST OF THE PRESIDENT, BUT ON THE PERSONALITY OF THE HEAD OF STATE AND THE STATE ITSELF. HE MADE AN "URGENT APPEAL" TO WALDHEIM FOR HELP TO REGAIN THE STABILITY OF THIS SOCIETY AND SAID, "EVERYBODY HAS TO CONTRIBUTE TO A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM, ABOVE ALL THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF." (NEUE AZ, P. 2/3)

3. VICE CHANCELLOR MOCK: FOR VICE CHANCELLOR MOCK, WALDHEIM'S TV ADDRESS MEANS AN OFFER OF DISCUSSION AND DIALOG, WHICH SHOULD BE ACCEPTED. MOCK SAID HE IS CONFIDENT THE GOVERNMENT WILL FIND A WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT "DIFFICULT SITUATION". FOR THOSE WHO HAVE GOOD WILL, WALDHEIM'S SPEECH IS A CONTRIBUTION TO DAMPENING DOWN THE SITUATION. (DIE PRESSE, P. 4)

4. HERBERT KREJCI: HERBERT KREJCI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INDUSTRIELLENVEREINIGUNG (EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION), HAD AN INTERVIEW WITH THE "KURIER" YESTERDAY IN WHICH HE VOICED HIS CONCERN OVER "INCREASING FEELINGS OF HATE AND POLITICAL HOSTILITY." KREJCI WARNED URGENTLY AGAINST THE "NARROW-MINDED AND LIMITED PERSPECTIVE THAT SEEMS TO PREVAIL IN AUSTRIA," AND ADDED THAT "NO AUSTRIAN CAN BE INDIFFERENT TO WHAT IS THOUGHT, DONE AND, ABOVE ALL, WRITTEN AND SAID ABROAD." REFERRING TO ONE OF AUSTRIA'S CONCRETE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES, KREJCI SAID: "I THINK THE PRESENT ATTITUDE OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES TOWARD AUSTRIA - REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT HAS BEEN STIMULATED ON PURPOSE OR HAS GROWN NATURALLY - WILL SERIOUSLY HAMPER NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THIS COUNTRY'S MOVE TOWARD THE EC. THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH HAS TO BE SAID IN ALL CLARITY, AND WHICH HAS BEEN CONFIRMED OVER AND OVER AGAIN." (KURIER, P. 3)

5. GREAT BRITAIN: BRITAIN'S PRIME MINISTER MARGRET THATCHER HAS SAID THAT A REVIEW IS UNDER WAY OF AN ENQUIRY INTO THE FATE OF SIX COMMANDOS WHOSE DISAPPEARANCE IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR HAS BEEN LINKED BY THE BRITISH PRESS TO THE THEN LIEUTENANT WALDHEIM. ACCORDING TO THOSE PRESS REPORTS, THE MEN WERE LAST SEEN ALIVE AT THE QUARTERS OF THE INTELLIGENCE UNIT OF ARMY

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GROUP E WHERE WALDHEIM SERVED. BUT MRS. THATCHER, IN HER WRITTEN REPLY TO A QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT, ADDED THAT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF BRITISH OFFICIAL RECORDS HAD FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE ALLEGATIONS OF WAR CRIMES AGAINST PRESIDENT WALDHEIM IN THIS CASE. (ORF INTERNATIONAL NEWS)
UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 01809

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6. "RADIO RESIGNSTION": A PIRATE RADIO STATION, WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN OPERATING OUT OF VIENNA SHORTLY BEFORE THE OPERA BALL, COULD BE HEARD AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN THE NORTHWEST AREA OF THE AUSTRIAN CAPITAL. THE PROGRAM LASTED FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES AND WAS CALLED "RADIO RUECKTRITT" ("RADIO RESIGNATION"). (DIE PRESSE, P. 12) O'CONNOR

ADMIN

END OF MESSAGE

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