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TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO. 32/88, FOR FEB. 19, 1988

1. WALDHEIM OPINION POLL: A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE GALLUP OPINION POLL INSTITUTE FOR THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE "BASTA" AND THE DAILY "KURIER" HAS YIELDED THE FOLLOWING RESULTS: 56 PERCENT OF AUSTRIANS THINK THAT THE RESULTS OF THE HISTORIANS' REPORT ARE "RATHER NEGATIVE" FOR WALDHEIM, BUT 35 PERCENT BELIEVE THE REPORT HAS "RATHER POSITIVE" RESULTS. A MAJORITY THINKS THE REPORT "INCRIMINATES" WALDHEIM, BUT A PLURALITY OF 49 PERCENT STILL PREFERS HIM TO "STAY IN OFFICE." OUTRIGHT

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OPPOSITION IS GROWING, HOWEVER: 47 PERCENT ARE FAVORING HIS RESIGNATION NOW BECAUSE OF THE REPORT OF THE HISTORIANS' COMMISSION. DIVISION ALONG PARTY LINES IS HIGHLY VISIBLE: 74 PERCENT OF SPOE VOTERS CALL FOR WALDHEIM'S RESIGNATION, BUT 81 PERCENT OF THE OEVP SUPPORTERS FAVOR HIS STAYING IN OFFICE. (KURIER, P. 5)

2. KNESSET DECISION: AUSTRIA HAS REJECTED A DECISION OF THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT, IN WHICH THE KNESSET UNANIMOUSLY CALLED FOR THE RESIGNATION OR DISMISSAL OF THE "NAZI WAR CRIMINAL" **KURT WALDHEIM**. A STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY DESCRIBED THE RESOLUTION AS AN "INSULT." THE ISRAELI CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN VIENNA, GIDEON YARDEN, WAS SUMMONED TO THE MINISTRY AND TOLD OF AUSTRIA'S DISMAY. CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY STATED THAT THE TERM "WAR CRIMINAL" IN DESCRIBING THE PRESIDENT MUST BE REJECTED. HE SAID AUSTRIA IS NOW IN THE MIDST OF A PENETRATING DISCUSSION PROCESS OVER THE PERSON OF PRESIDENT WALDHEIM, AND INFLUENCES FROM ABROAD BASED ON FALSE ASSUMPTIONS COULD ONLY SERVE TO DISRUPT THIS DISCUSSION. (ORF INTERNATIONAL RADIO NEWS)

3. VICE CHANCELLOR MOCK: IN A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, VICE CHANCELLOR MOCK CALLED THE ORF TELEVISION AND RADIO COVERAGE OF THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR "AN OUTRAGE" WHICH MUST BE REJECTED. HE SAID: "ONE HAS TO CALL THINGS BY THEIR PROPER NAME. THIS BRAINWASHING HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR WEEKS." ACCORDING TO MOCK, THE OEVP IS LODGING AN OFFICIAL COMPLAINT WITH THE ORF STEERING COMMITTEE. ORF DIRECTOR OF NEWS JOHANNES KUNZ WROTE A LETTER TO THE VICE CHANCELLOR IN WHICH HE REJECTED MOCK'S ATTACK AND SAID THAT WALDHEIM AND OEVP TOP PARTY OFFICIALS HAVE REFUSED TO GIVE INTERVIEWS TO ORF. (DIE PRESSE, P. 1)

4. PEOPLE'S PARTY: PROTESTS AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S PARTY POLICY ARE DISRUPTING THE SALZBURG BRANCH OF THE PARTY. THE MOST VISIBLE SIGN IS FRITZ RUECKER'S RESIGNATION AS DEPUTY PARTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SALZBURG BRANCH, PROTESTING "THE PRESIDENT'S ANSWER AND ATTITUDE REGARDING THE ORF'S QUESTION ON HIS DELIBERATELY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY UNTRUE STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE BALKANS WAR." FRANZ SCHAUSBERGER, PARTY SECRETARY OF THE SALZBURG PROVINCE BRANCH OF THE OEVP, CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT TO START A "DIALOG OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION" IN THE SALZBURG OEVP DAILY "VOLKS-ZEITUNG" AND SAYS: "AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN THE NEAR FUTURE, OVERSHADOWED BY THE WALDHEIM DISCUSSION, WOULD PRODUCE HARSH CONFRONTATIONS. AUSTRIA WOULD BE COMING DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO THE SITUATION OF THE FIRST REPUBLIC." (KURIER, P. 2)

5. ANTI-WALDHEIM DEMONSTRATION: MORE THAN A THOUSAND PERSONS PARTICIPATED IN A DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE HOFBURG, THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED BY THE SOCIALIST TEACHERS OF VIENNA. THE REASON GIVEN FOR THE DEMONSTRATION: "IN HIS TV SPEECH, THE PRESIDENT LEVELED UNQUALIFIED ACCUSATIONS AT THE HISTORIANS'

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COMMISSION AND AGAINST AUSTRIAN CITIZENS WHO EXPRESS THEIR OPINION BY DEMONSTRATING, BUT HE MADE NO CLARIFYING STATEMENTS CONCERNING HIMSELF." (NEUE AZ, P. 3)

6. RAMSEY CLARK STATEMENT: RAMSEY CLARK, FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY GENFRAL, DEFENDS AUSTRIA AGAINST BRONFMAN!
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CLARK, WHO WAS ATTORNEY GENERAL IN PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ADMINISTRATION, ISSUED A WRITTEN STATEMENT IN WHICH HE SAYS: "THIS IS AN ATTEMPT FROM ABROAD TO HUMILIATE THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD!" THE KRONE WAS SUPPLIED WITH THIS STATEMENT BY THE "INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR PRESIDENT WALDHEIM" WHICH WAS FOUNDED ONLY SOME DAYS AGO. (NEUE KRONENZEITUNG, P. 2)

7. AUSTRIA AND THE EC: A NEWLY PUBLISHED SURVEY BY THE LINZ-BASED IMAS OPINION POLL INSTITUTE SHOWS THAT A MAJORITY OF 54 PERCENT OF AUSTRIANS FAVORS A FUTURE EC MEMBERSHIP FOR AUSTRIA. ONLY 19 PERCENT THINK THAT JOINING THE EC IS OF NO IMPORTANCE. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A RELATIVELY HIGH PROPORTION OF 27 PERCENT WHICH IS UNDECIDED ON THE SUBJECT. (DIE PRESSE, P. 2) O'CONNOR

ADMIN

END OF MESSAGE

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