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TEXT

SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: "NEUE KRONENZEITUNG"
COLUMNIST CAUSES OUTRAGE

1. SUMMARY: ON NOV. 30, AN ARTICLE BY NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST A. M. ROSENTHAL ENTITLED "THE JEW AND THE CARDINAL ARE A PART OF VIENNA, TOO" WAS CARRIED ON PAGE 5 OF THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE. IT DEALT WITH AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS WHICH WAS HELD IN VIENNA, AND IN ADDITION GAVE A GENERAL IMPRESSION OF THE CITY, ITS NAZI PAST AND PRESENT-DAY EFFORTS TO OVERCOME LINGERING REMNANTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM. RICHARD NIMMERRICHTER (PEN-NAME "STABERL"), COLUMNIST OF AUSTRIA'S MOST WIDELY READ TABLOID "NEUE KRONENZEITUNG" (CIRC. 958,100) TORE TWO SENTENCES OUT OF THE CONTEXT OF THIS RATHER CAREFULLY

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BALANCED AND DIFFERENTIATED PICTURE TO USE THEM AS PEGS FOR AN ANTI-AMERICAN DIATRIBE WITH ANTI-SEMITIC OVERTONES ALONG THE LINES OF THE PAPER'S CONSISTENT PRO-WALDHEIM CAMPAIGN. THE ARTICLE APPEARED ON P. 8 OF THE DEC. 17 "KRONENZEITUNG" UNDER THE TITLE "HIDING FROM THE DANUBE WALTZ" AND CAUSED ANGER AND PROTESTS, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE "STABERL" MANAGED TO "MISSPELL" THE NAME ROSENTHAL SEVERAL TIMES IN A TWO-COLUMN ARTICLE, CHANGING IT FIRST TO ROSENBAUM, THEN TO ROSENBERG. THIS NAME CHANGE APPEARED ONLY IN THE EARLY EDITION OF THE PAPER, HOWEVER. ON DEC. 19, THE SOCIALIST PARTY DAILY "NEUE ARBEITERZEITUNG" PUBLISHED A SHARP COMMENTARY ON THE "STABERL" PIECE, FOLLOWED BY A SHORT ARTICLE ON DEC. 20. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE "KRONENZEITUNG", AND IN PARTICULAR COLUMNIST NIMMERRICHTER, HAVE BEEN WIDELY CRITICIZED FOR GUTTER POLEMICS FOR MANY YEARS, WITH THE PRO-WALDHEIM CAMPAIGN AS A HIGHLIGHT OF XENOPHOBIA AND ANTI-JEWISH SENTIMENT. EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

2. "NEUE KRONENZEITUNG", DEC. 17:

FAR AWAY IN NEW YORK, AT THE TIME WHEN THE SICKENING MUD-SLINGING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE **KURT WALDHEIM** WAS AT ITS WORST, A VAGUE THREAT WAS ISSUED: IF THE AUSTRIANS REALLY ELECTED WALDHEIM FOR PRESIDENT, THEY WOULD BE FACING HARD TIMES FOR THE SIX YEARS TO COME ...!

BUT THE AUSTRIANS WERE IMPERTINENT ENOUGH TO ELECT WALDHEIM AFTER ALL. AS TIME WENT ON, THE SLANDEROUS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT COLLAPSED ONE AFTER THE OTHER. (...)

BUT THE SIX YEARS ARE NOT OVER YET, AND THE DISGUSTING SHOW IS CARRIED ON AT NEARLY FULL FORCE. THIS TIME IT'S NOT AGAINST WALDHEIM, BECAUSE THERE IS NO MORE AMMUNITION LEFT, BUT AUSTRIA AND ITS CITIZENS ARE ATTACKED ALL THE MORE FIERCELY INSTEAD.

ONE A.M. ROSENTHAL DESCRIBES IN THE NOTORIOUS "NEW YORK TIMES" WHAT VIENNA IS LIKE THESE DAYS, AND THE INTERNATIONAL EDITION OF THE "HERALD TRIBUNE" IS PLEASED AS PIE TO REPRINT IT. IT IS SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE AUSTRIAN CARDINAL INNITZER STEPPED OUT OF A CAR FIFTY YEARS AGO AND STRETCHED OUT HIS ARM IN THE NAZI SALUTE. TO GO ON: "THE MEMORY OF CARDINAL INNITZER IS PART OF VIENNA AND SO IS THE MAN WHO WANTED TO URINATE AGAINST THE OLD JEW (OF THE MONUMENT BY HRDLICKA). SO IS THE PRESIDENT WHO HID HIS PAST AS A NAZI INTELLIGENCE OFFICER."

WHAT IS THE IMAGE THAT ARISES "IN THE MINDS OF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD" WHEN THEY HEAR THE WORD "VIENNA"? MR. ROSENBAUM KNOWS IT ACCURATELY. EVERYBODY, ALL OVER WORLD, ONLY THINKS OF THE "PARTICULAR PIECE OF HORROR" OF THE JEWS WHO WERE FORCED BY THE VIENNESE TO WASH THE STREETS.

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SO THAT'S IT. THAT'S WHY MORE AND MORE TOURISTS COME TO SEE VIENNA EVERY YEAR. ARE OUR VISITORS DIEHARD NAZIS, TOO? OR ARE THERE STILL PEOPLE WHO ASSOCIATE "VIENNA" WITH OTHER IMAGES? ONE HAS TO TAKE A POSITIVE VIEW, HOWEVER, OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE VIENNA EXPERT ROSENBERG, WHICH UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 VIENNA 14572

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DEMONSTRATES -- FAR OFF FROM THE POLITICAL LEVEL -- THE SPECIAL BRAND OF IMBECILITY PRODUCED BY THIS WRITER. ROSENBERG ON VIENNA: "THE CITY IS FULL OF WHIPPED CREAM, AND YOU HAVE TO HIDE TO ESCAPE THE ORCHESTRAS PLAYING THE 'BLUE DANUBE' OR A TOURIST HUMMING 'WIEN, WIEN.' LOTS OF LODEN."

KISS YOUR HAND, HERR ROSENBERG, FOR THIS BLOOMING NONSENSE! IT DEMONSTRATES TO US IN A KINDLY WAY WHAT SORT OF NONSENSE YOU ARE WRITING ANYWAY. BETWEEN YOU AND ME: IN VIENNA, ONE HAS TO WAIT A YEAR ON THE AVERAGE -- UNTIL THE PHILHARMONIC (ORCHESTRA) PLAYS ITS NEW YEAR'S CONCERT -- TO HEAR THE "BLUE DANUBE" AGAIN.

3. "NEUE ARBEITERZEITUNG", DEC. 19, P. 3 COMMENTARY BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR GEORG HOFFMANN-OSTENHOF:

"A YID IS A YID"

ONE DOESN'T MAKE JOKES ABOUT NAMES. EVERY BEGINNER IN JOURNALISM KNOWS THAT. IT'S NOT FUNNY, BUT VULGAR. CRACKING JOKES ABOUT JEWISH NAMES IS THE WORST. THE NOTORIOUS NAZI PAPER "STUERMER" SPECIALIZED IN IT, AND SINCE THEN, NOT EVEN THE RIGHT-WING RADICAL PRESS HAS DARED TO STOOP TO THESE PRACTICES OF ANTI-SEMITISM. BUT RICHARD NIMMERRICHTER DOES.

HE WRITES A POLEMIC (...) AGAINST A U.S. JOURNALIST WHO TAKES A CRITICAL VIEW OF AUSTRIA (...) SO FAR, SO BAD. COLUMNIST "STABERL" GIVES THE MAN FROM THE EAST COAST A PIECE OF HIS MIND, AND IN THE HEAT OF THE ATTACK CALLS HIM "ROSENBAUM". AFTER QUOTING A PASSAGE FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES, HE GLEEFULLY SAYS: 'KISS YOUR HAND, HERR ROSENBERG, FOR THIS BLOOMING NONSENSE.' ROSENTHAL, ROSENBAUM, ROSENBERG, ALL THE SAME -- YID IS YID.

NOBODY CAN CLAIM IT WAS THE TYPESETTER'S FAULT, OR

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SIMPLY A MISTAKE. ONE CAN MAKE A MISTAKE ONCE, BUT THIS WAS DONE DELIBERATELY AND SYSTEMATICALLY (...)
APPARENTLY, NOT ONLY WE FELT THIS WAY. THE "KRONE" ALSO NOTICED IT, AND IN THE LATE EDITION, ONLY "ROSENTHAL" REMAINED. BUT WHAT'S BEEN DONE CAN'T BE TAKEN BACK.
HERR DICHAND (OWNER OF THE KRONENZEITUNG), WHO ALLEGEDLY SUFFERS SO TERRIBLY WHENEVER HIS PAPER IS ACCUSED OF ANTI-SEMITIC WRITING, SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER HE CAN REALLY AFFORD SUCH A COLUMNIST (...) THIS OPEN ANTI-SEMITISM THAT IS DISSEMINATED IN THE COUNTRY'S MOST WIDELY-CIRCULATED PAPER IS UNBEARABLE FOR AUSTRIA.

4. "NEUE ARBEITERZEITUNG", DEC. 20, P. 3 ARTICLE:

"ANGER AT 'STABERL' ARTICLE -- WIESENTHAL SAYS:
'ANTI-SEMITISM' -- GREEN PARTY ANNOUNCES PARLIAMENTARY INITIATIVE"

ANGER AND DISMAY WAS CAUSED BY AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY RICHARD NIMMERRICHTER ALIAS "STABERL" OF THE "KRONENZEITUNG". AS WE REPORTED, THE COLUMNIST WROTE A POLEMIC AGAINST A "NEW YORK TIMES" ARTICLE, IN WHICH HE "IRONICALLY" ONCE USED THE CORRECT NAME OF A JOURNALIST NAMED "ROSENTHAL", BUT THEN CHANGED IT TO "ROSENBAUM" AND "ROSENBERG". SEVERAL PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS HAVE PROTESTED AGAINST THIS KIND OF WRITING: "POKING FUN AT JEWISH NAMES IS A TRADITION IN THIS COUNTRY. IT IS THE TRADITION OF UNABASHED ANTI-SEMITISM," STATED THE ORGANIZATION OF "JEWISH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS", WHICH REGARDS THE ARTICLE AS AN "OUTRAGE". PETER PILZ, PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREEN PARTY, TAKES THE SAME VIEW OF THE MATTER AND ANNOUNCED A PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY TO THE CHANCELLOR IN WHICH HE WANTS TO ASK WHETHER "THE CHANCELLOR IS PREPARED TO ENSURE THAT MEDIA WHICH ACQUIESCE IN OR PROMOTE ANTI-SEMITIC WRITING ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE BENEFITS OF GOVERNMENT PRESS SUBSIDIES."

PAUL GROSZ, PRESIDENT OF VIENNA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY, SAID THAT THE "KRONENZEITUNG" HAS BEEN USING ANTI-SEMITISM
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FOR A QUITE SOME TIME TO WIN SYMPATHIES AMONG THE PEOPLE. ACCORDING TO GROSZ, "ANTI-JEWISH SENTIMENT" IS BEING FOSTERED AGAIN. SIMON WIESENTHAL (HEAD OF THE

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VIENNA BASED JEWISH DOCUMENTATION CENTER) IS LIKEWISE
DISMAYED BY THE ANTI-SEMITIC ARTICLE. "ONE DOESN'T WANT
JUST ONE JEW, ONE MAKES THREE OUT OF ONE, THAT'S MORE
LIKE THE IDEA OF 'ALL JEWS'," IS WIESENTHAL'S ANALYSIS
(...)

THE YOUNG GENERATION OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND THE
REPUBLICAN CLUB/NEW AUSTRIA ALSO CONDEMNED "STABERL"'S
DIATRIBES AS "AN OUTRAGE". O'CONNOR

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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