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TEXT
TAGS: PGOV, AU, UK
SUBJ: WALDHEIM DEBATE IN BRITAIN

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO RECENT NEWS STORIES HERE, BRITISH MPS HAVE REOPENED A PUBLIC DEBATE IN THE LONDON PRESS REGARDING PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM'S** WARTIME PAST. REFERRING TO THE REPEATEDLY POSTPONED PUBLICATION OF THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION INTO WALDHEIM'S ROLE IN THE WAR, LABOR PARTY MP GREVILLE JANNER ALLEGED THAT THE DELAY MIGHT BE MOTIVATED BY FINDINGS THAT WALDHEIM HAD WORKED FOR AN ALLIED SECRET SERVICE SHORTLY AFTER THE WAR. WALDHEIM'S OFFICE IN VIENNA STRESSED THAT HE HAD NEVER WORKED FOR ANY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION. JOINING THE PUBLIC DEBATE, CONSERVATIVE MP ROBERT RHODES JAMES SAID AUSTRIA SHOULD NOT MAKE ANY BID FOR EC MEMBERSHIP AS LONG AS WALDHEIM REMAINS PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS IN THE INDEPENDENT AUSTRIAN DAILY "DER STANDARD", BRITISH MP'S ARE CALLING ON PM THATCHER TO PUBLISH THE RESULTS OF A LONG OVERDUE

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INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE WARTIME ACTIVITIES OF AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM**. (THE INVESTIGATION PANEL FOCUSED ON EVENTS IN 1944 WHEN BRITISH SOLDIERS WERE CAPTURED BY WEHRMACHT ARMY UNIT E WHICH THEN TURNED THEM OVER TO THE SS. WALDHEIM WAS PART OF THE UNIT AT THAT TIME.) AT THE SAME TIME LABOR PARTY MP GREVILLE JANNER PUBLICLY SPECULATED THAT, BECAUSE OF WALDHEIM'S ACTIVITIES FOR AN ALLIED INTELLIGENCE SERVICE SHORTLY AFTER THE WAR, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS NOT GOING TO PUBLISH THE REPORT AT ALL IN ORDER NOT TO COMPROMISE A WESTERN ALLY. JANNER REPORTEDLY SAID HE HAD INFORMATION FROM "QUALIFIED SOURCES". HE FURTHER NOTED THAT GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAD APPARENTLY SUDDENLY LIMITED ANY ACCESS TO CERTAIN ARCHIVE MATERIAL FROM THE TIME PERIOD UNDER REVIEW BY THE INVESTIGATION PANEL.

3. ACCORDING TO THE "STANDARD", MEMBERS OF THE INVESTIGATION PANEL WERE NOT ALLOWED TO COMMENT AT ALL ON THE ISSUE. MEANWHILE, SIR HENRY HINSLEY, HISTORY PROFESSOR AT CAMBRIDGE'S ST. JOHNS COLLEGE, WHO WILL REVIEW THE PANEL'S FINDINGS, TOLD THE AUSTRIAN DAILY THAT IT WAS STILL NOT CLEAR WHEN THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONCLUDED. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN FOUND AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET NO DEADLINE, HE SAID. SIR HENRY DENIED ANY SPECULATION THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS POSTPONING THE PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT "FOR DIPLOMATIC CONSIDERATIONS".

4. ACCORDING TO THE "STANDARD", BRITISH MPS HAVE DRAWN PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO AN OMINOUS CIA FILE WHICH HAD BEEN REPEATEDLY MENTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH WALDHEIM'S ACTIVITIES SHORTLY AFTER THE WAR. REPORTEDLY, THE MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH INVESTIGATION PANEL RECEIVED THIS FILE WHICH UNTIL NOW HAD BEEN KEPT LOCKED UP BY THE U.S. THE DEPUTIES ARE NOW CALLING ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE THIS FILE IN THE PUBLISHED REPORT.

5. A RELATED "STANDARD" NEWS STORY OF FEBRUARY 9 QUOTES BRITISH CONSERVATIVE MP ROBERT RHODES JAMES AS SAYING "AUSTRIA WOULD BE WELL ADVISED NOT TO SEND ANY LETTER (OF APPLICATION) TO (EC HEADQUARTERS IN) BRUSSELS AS LONG AS WALDHEIM REMAINS PRESIDENT. THE MERE PRESENCE OF A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WOULD RAISE A STORM IN THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS WHICH WOULD GO BEYOND ANY EMBARRASSMENT THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA HAD TO ENDURE SO FAR". THE CONSERVATIVE MP, WHO HAD WORKED AT THE UN DURING WALDHEIM'S TENURE, DENIED THAT HIS VIEWS WERE MOTIVATED BY ANY PERSONAL ANTI-PATHY TO THE FORMER UN CHIEF.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EMBASSY LONDON MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEVELOP ON THE WALDHEIM INVESTIGATION. GRUNWALD

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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