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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO. 83/89, FOR 05/05/89

1. VRANITZKY VISIT TO U.S.: CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY, WHO ARRIVED ON A WORKING VISIT TO THE U.S. ON WEDNESDAY, IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH U.S. PRESIDENT BUSH AND SECRETARY OF STATE BAKER TODAY. BEFORE GOING TO WASHINGTON, VRANITZKY VISITED CHICAGO, WHERE HE MET WITH ILLINOIS GOVERNOR JAMES R. THOMPSON AND BUSINESS AND FINANCE REPRESENTATIVES. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH CONTACTS, SAYING THAT "AUSTRIA HAS TO BE ECONOMICALLY, CULTURALLY, AND POLITICALLY PRESENT IN THE U.S." AND SHOULD NOT "LAG BEHIND WHEN THE SMALLER AND

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MEDIUM-SIZED EUROPEAN STATES ADAPT TO THE U.S. MARKET." ON U.S.-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS, VRANITZKY SAID ON HIS JOURNEY THAT THE WALDHEIM ISSUE IS NO LONGER A STRAIN AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NECESSITY TO TAKE UP THE TOPIC WITH PRESIDENT BUSH. THE LIST OF TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED INCLUDES EASTERN EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS, THE CSCE PROCESS, AND AUSTRIAN EC POLICY. WITH REGARD TO THIS LAST ISSUE, VRANITZKY WANTS TO LAY PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON AUSTRIAN NEUTRALITY POLICY: "I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR AT AN EARLY POINT THAT WE COMPLY WITH THE STATE TREATY." (DIE PRESSE, P. 1, NEUE AZ, P. 3, DER STANDARD, P. 4)

VRANITZKY ALSO GAVE A SPEECH AT CHICAGO UNIVERSITY, IN WHICH HE SAID HE BELIEVES THE SOVIET LEADER MIKHAIL GORBACHEV TRULY WANTS TO REFORM BOTH HIS COUNTRY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD. ACCORDING TO VRANITZKY, THE POSITION THAT GORBACHEV IS MERELY TRYING TO PULL A PR STUNT TO MANIPULATE A CREDULOUS PUBLIC IS NO LONGER TENABLE. (ORF RADIO INTERNATIONAL NEWS)

2. SHER ON WALDHEIM: ON MAY 4, MASS-CIRCULATION "NEUE KRONENZEITUNG" CARRIED THE FOLLOWING P. 2 ITEM ENTITLED "KURT WALDHEIM WILL NEVER AGAIN SET FOOT ON U.S. SOIL": "NEIL SHER, HEAD OF THE NAZI HUNTER SECTION OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WAS TALKING BIG AT THE START OF VRANITZKY'S VISIT TO THE U.S. THE WATCH LIST BOSS SAID AT AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE "SIMON WISENTHAL CENTER" THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT REVERSE THE DECISION BARRING WALDHEIM FROM THE U.S.: "WALDHEIM WILL NEVER AGAIN SET FOOT ON U.S. SOIL." IN VIENNA, FOREIGN MINISTER DEPLORED THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE U.S. DESPITE AN ABSOLUTE LACK OF PROOF."

3. SECOND ROUND OF CFE AND CSBM TALKS: THE SECOND ROUND OF THE CFE AND CSBM TALKS STARTING AT THE HOFBURG TODAY IS OVERSHADOWED BY THE MISSILE MODERNIZATION CONFLICT WITHIN NATO. REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN DELEGATIONS ARE ASSESSING THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST ROUND WITH "OPTIMISM, BUT ALSO REALISM", AND BELIEVE THAT BIG DIFFERENCES REMAIN DESPITE AGREEMENT ON MANY POINTS. ACCORDING TO U.S. CFE DELEGATION CHAIRMAN STEVEN LEDOGAR, THE THREE CATEGORIES CITED BY NATO ARE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR A REDUCTION OF THE OFFENSIVE POTENTIAL. LEDOGAR UNDERScoreD THAT HE DOES NOT WANT TO RULE OUT AN INCLUSION OF OFFENSIVE AIR FORCES IN THE UPCOMING ROUND. COMPLAINTS THAT NATO IS UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE ON A REDUCTION OF TROOP STRENGTH ARE UNJUSTIFIED, ACCORDING TO LEDOGAR. (DER STANDARD, P. 3, DIE PRESSE, P. 2)

4. REFUGEE POLICY: INTERIOR MINISTER FRANZ LOESCHNAK ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THAT A TEST RUN FOR A NEW REFUGEE POLICY WILL BE STARTED IN COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY AND THE CITY OF VIENNA. THE PROJECT AIMS AT INTEGRATING APPLICANTS FOR ASYLUM INTO AUSTRIAN SOCIETY BY PROVIDING GERMAN-LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION, HOUSING, AND WORKING

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PERMITS DURING THE TIME REFUGEES HAVE TO STAY IN AUSTRIA AND WAIT UNTIL THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR ASYLUM ARE PROCESSED, WHICH MAY TAKE UP TO FOUR YEARS IN EXTREME CASES. IN A FIRST STAGE, THE TEST RUN WILL INCLUDE 500 REFUGEES LIVING IN VIENNA. LOESCHNAK SAID THAT THE PROJECT WILL MEET THE DEMANDS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL REFUGEE AID ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH HAVE REPEATEDLY POINTED UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 05125

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OUT THE PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM THE "DEAD" PERIOD OF WAITING. (DER STANDARD, P. 4)

5. 1988 FOREIGN POLICY REPORT: ON MAY 3, FOREIGN MINISTER ALOIS MOCK PRESENTED THE 1988 FOREIGN POLICY REPORT. IN AN OUTLINE OF ESSENTIAL POINTS OF AUSTRIAN FOREIGN POLICY, MOCK LISTED EC POLICY, NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE, IMPROVED DEVELOPMENT AID POLICY, AND AUSTRIA'S PEACE-KEEPING ACTIVITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE U.N. WITH REGARD TO THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, MOCK PRINCIPALLY FAVORED U.S.-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR SHORT-RANGE MISSILES IN EUROPE. ADDRESSING THE CONFLICT WITHIN NATO OVER THE MODERNIZATION OF SHORT-RANGE MISSILES, MOCK SAID AUSTRIA WELCOMES ALL INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT EFFORTS, IF THEY LEAD TO A LOW AND BALANCED LEVEL OF MILITARY ARMAMENT IN EUROPE, AND IF VERIFICATION IS POSSIBLE. (WIENER ZEITUNG, MAY 4, P. 3)
O'CONNOR

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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