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JUSTICE FOR OSI - SHER

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO. 73, FOR MAY 08, 1990

1. NEAL SHER COMMENTS ON WATCH-LIST DECISION AT WJC MEETING: ON THE SECOND DAY OF A MEETING OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS IN BERLIN, NEAL SHER, HEAD OF THE U.S. AUTHORITY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF NAZI CRIMES AND AN EMPLOYEE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, COMMENTED ON THE UNITED STATES' WATCHLIST. ACCORDING TO NEAL SHER, PRESENTLY SOME 12,000 PERSONS ARE ON THE WATCHLIST DUE

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TO THEIR NAZI PAST. SHER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE WAS 'PROUD' TO ANNOUNCE THAT AUSTRIAN FEDERAL PRESIDENT KURT WALDHEIM'S NAME WILL NOT BE STRUCK OFF THE WATCHLIST. THE DAILY 'NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG' ACCUSED SHER OF MAKING UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS AND GOING OUT OF HIS WAY TO DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE WALDHEIM CASE.

IN REACTION TO SHER'S STATEMENT, THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASED A HARSH OFFICIAL STATEMENT ADDRESSED TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS CITED BY THE THE INDEPENDENT DAILY MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID "NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG" (CIRCULATION: 1,004,048) AS FOLLOWS (IT WAS ALSO QUOTED IN ABBREVIATED FORM IN OTHER MEDIA):

"THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT IS DISTURBED AT THE POLEMICS BY MR. NEAL SHER, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, AGAINST THE HEAD OF STATE OF A COUNTRY WHICH IS ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT DEALT WITH THE WATCHLIST-DECISION IN 1987 AND OFFICIALLY REJECTED IT AS UNFOUNDED. NO NEW ASPECTS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED IN THIS RESPECT. THUS, THERE WAS NO REASON FOR A U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TO TAKE UP THE SUBJECT AT THE MEETING OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS IN BERLIN AND REPEAT POLEMICS ALREADY KNOWN."

"NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG" ALSO RUNS A COMMENTARY ON NEAL SHER'S STATEMENTS BY FOREIGN-AFFAIRS WRITER KURT SEINITZ.

FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION OF THE 'NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG' COMMENTARY:

"THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHO KEEPS EMPHASIZING THAT IT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO BEING ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH AUSTRIA, OWES US AN EXPLANATION. HOW DOES ONE OF ITS TOP-RANKING OFFICIALS EXPLAIN HIS PUBLIC POLEMICS AGAINST THE HEAD OF STATE OF THIS COUNTRY? EITHER, HE CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS BECAUSE A POWERFUL LOBBY IS BACKING HIM, OR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS DELIBERATELY CLOSING ITS EYES TO A VIOLATION OF A CIVIL SERVANT'S PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE." (DIE PRESSE, P.2; DER STANDARD, P.4; NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG, P.2)

2. PARIS SUPPORTS AUSTRIA'S EC ACCESSION: AT A MEETING BETWEEN AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY AND FRENCH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND IN BORDEAUX, WHICH FOCUSED ON AUSTRIA'S WISH TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY, MITTERRAND STATED FRANCE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY OBJECTIONS AGAINST AUSTRIAN EC MEMBERSHIP IN FUTURE. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF A POLITICAL UNION OF THE COMMUNITY, AUSTRIA'S NEUTRALITY IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED AN OBSTACLE. ACCORDING TO CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY, MITTERRAND MADE IT CLEAR THAT AUSTRIA "IS PART OF THE COMMUNITY DUE TO ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GEO-POLITICAL SITUATION AND ITS HISTORY". AT THE SAME TIME, MITTERRAND DREW VRANITZKY'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT BY 1992, THE EC WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE TO WHICH AUSTRIA APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP. HE

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FURTHER STRESSED THAT AN EXPANSION OF THE COMMUNITY WILL
BE PRECEDED BY A PERIOD OF FURTHER CONSOLIDATION. PARIS
WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO HOST THE PLANNED CSCE
SUMMIT, WHILE PROMISING SUPPORT FOR PERMANENT CSCE
STRUCTURES IN VIENNA. (DIE PRESSE, P.1)
O'CONNOR

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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