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TEXT
TAGS: AU PREL PGOV
SUBJECT: SPECIAL REPORT: AUSTRIAN MEDIA REACTION TO THE
NEW YORK TIMES OP ED PIECE ON WALDHEIM, MAY 24, 1994.

SUMMARY

1. THE NEW YORK TIMES IN AN OP ED PIECE BY A. ROSENTHAL
OF MAY 24, 1994 QUOTES FROM CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS SENT BY
THE VIENNA U.S. EMBASSY DEPICTING KURT WALDHEIM AS
"COOPERATIVE AND RECEPTIVE TO U.S. INTERESTS." WALDHEIM

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WAS AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT FROM 1986 THROUGH 1992 AND WAS PUT ON THE U.S. WATCH LIST IN 1987, FORBIDDING HIS ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES AS A FOREIGNER WHO HAD ASSISTED OR PARTICIPATED IN "ACTIVITIES AMOUNTING TO PERSECUTION" DURING WORLD WAR II. THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE U.S. HISTORIAN ROBERT HERZSTEIN (AUTHOR OF THE BOOK "WALDHEIM: THE MISSING YEARS") ARE TRYING TO OBTAIN RECORDS FROM THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CIA VIA LEGAL ACTION IN ORDER TO FIND OUT WHY, ACCORDING TO HERZSTEIN, "WALDHEIM WAS PROTECTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT." THIS ARTICLE BY THE NEW YORK TIMES CAUSED THE MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID NEUE KRONENZEITUNG, WHICH WAS THE LEADING AUSTRIAN MEDIA DEFENDING **KURT WALDHEIM** AND ATTACKING THE U.S. FOR THE WATCH-LIST DECISION, TO WRITE THAT "FINALLY THE TRUTH COMES OUT, THAT WALDHEIM HAS BEEN A GREAT FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES." THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "DER STANDARD" ASKED **KURT WALDHEIM** FOR COMMENT. WALDHEIM WANTS THE CIA REPORTS MADE PUBLIC ACCORDING TO "DER STANDARD" AND STATED THAT "HE WAS NEVER AN AGENT FOR THE CIA." FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE TWO ARTICLES.

 "LATE, BUT UNINTENDED THE TRUTH COMES OUT"

2. FOREIGN EDITOR KURT SEINITZ AND CORRESPONDENT HANS JANITSCHKE FROM THE NEUE KRONENZEITUNG ENTITLE THEIR STORY "NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHES U.S. FILES 'WALDHEIM WAS AMERICA'S GREAT FRIEND'."

THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE ANTI-WALDHEIM HUNTING SOCIETY, THE NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHES -- AS A BIG SURPRISE -- CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FROM THE SIXTIES, WHICH ARE FULL OF PRAISE AND APPRECIATION FOR **KURT WALDHEIM**. . . .

HOWEVER, THE NEW YORK TIMES HAD NOT INTENDED THE TRUTH ON WALDHEIM AS AMERICA'S FRIEND TO COME OUT THAT WAY. THEY RATHER WANT TO START A NEW ROUND OF CHASE AGAINST WALDHEIM AND WANT TO FOSTER THE OLD, UNPROVABLE SUSPICION THAT WALDHEIM AFTER THE WAR HAD BEEN BLACKMAILED BY THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE TO BECOME ONE OF THEIR AGENTS. THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE JEWISH WORLD CONGRESS WANT TO CREATE PUBLIC PRESSURE WITH THEIR ARTICLES IN ORDER TO FORCE THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE TO MAKE THE ALLEGED SPY FILES PUBLIC EVEN IF IT NEEDS PASSING LEGISLATION BY THE U.S. CONGRESS. UP TO NOW, THE ANTI-WALDHEIM CHASE-SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAN EAST COAST HAD ACCUSED WALDHEIM OF 'JUST' BEING A SOVIET OR A YUGOSLAV AGENT.

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 "WALDHEIM: I WAS NEVER AN AGENT OF THE CIA"

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3. DER STANDARD WRITES:

"FORMER PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** HAS REJECTED RUMORS ACCORDING TO WHICH HE WAS AN AGENT FOR THE UNITED STATES IN THE SIXTIES. HE IS ASKING FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL CIA FILES ON HIM. "I HAVE NOTHING AGAINST THEIR RELEASE" WALDHEIM IS QUOTED.....

THE FORMER PRESIDENT EVALUATES THE RUMORS (ON HIS ACTIVITIES AS AN AGENT) AS AN ATTEMPT TO "CONTINUE THE DEFAMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST ME IN A NEW FORMAT." THE FACT THAT HE WAS FRIENDLY TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES DID "NOT MEAN THAT I WAS AN AGENT," WALDHEIM IS QUOTED..... WALDHEIM THINKS THAT BEHIND ALL OF THIS LIES THE INTENTION TO GENERALLY "FORCE THE CIA TO RELEASE INFORMATION ON PROMINENT PERSONALITIES TO THE PUBLIC." END REPORT.

DAVIDSON ACTING

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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