

CONFIDENTIAL  
FOUO

DOCUMENT\_ID: 16947926  
INQNO: DOC31D 00206867  
DOCNO: TEL 008136 94  
PRODUCER: VIENNA  
SOURCE: STATE  
DOCTYPE: IN  
DOR: 19940915  
TOR: 092440  
DOCPREC: R  
ORIGDATE: 199409151316  
MHFNO: 94 7834620  
DOCCLASS: C  
CAVEATS: FOUO

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
2000

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO  
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR  
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION  
IN THIS DOCUMENT

HEADER  
RR RUEAIB  
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
MSI9272  
RR RUEHC RUEHZL  
DE RUEHVI #8136 2581316  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 151316Z SEP 94  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5275  
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0243  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 6954  
BT

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW  
 Retain class'n  
 Declassify  
Change/classify to \_\_\_\_\_  
with concurrence of \_\_\_\_\_  
after \_\_\_\_\_

EO 12958, 25X  
IPS/CR/IR by *[Signature]* Date: 8/29/07

CONTROLS  
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 008136  
CAIRO PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR SWANEE HUNT  
E.O. 12356: N/A

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 382B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2007

TEXT  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, FR, AU  
SUBJECT: MITTERRAND AND WALDHEIM: AUSTRIAN PRESS DISCUSSES  
PARALLELS AND DIFFERENCES

REF: A) VIENNA 6142, B) VIENNA 4003, C) VIENNA 2676

1. SUMMARY: COMMENTING ON THE RECENT REVELATIONS OF THE  
WAR-TIME PAST OF FRENCH PRESIDENT FRANCOIS MITTERRAND, TWO  
LEADING AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPERS ON SEPTEMBER 14 DISCUSSED  
POSSIBLE PARALLELS OF THE MITTERRAND CASE AND THAT OF  
FORMER AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT KURT WALDHEIM. THE DAILY "DIE  
PRESSE" -- AN UNWAVERING WALDHEIM ALLY SINCE 1986 --  
LAMENTED THAT, WHILE MITTERRAND WOULD LIKELY EMERGE  
UNSCATHED WALDHEIM IS UNFORGIVEN. BY CONTRAST, THE  
TABLOID "KURIER" -- WHICH HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF  
WALDHEIM ALL ALONG -- NOTED THAT MITTERRAND'S FRANK  
ADMISSION OF HIS WAR-TIME PAST DEFLECTED SHARP CRITICISM,

FOUO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL  
FOUO

WHILE WALDHEIM'S DENIALS EXPOSED HIM AND DISCREDITED HIM FOREVER. END SUMMARY.

-----  
"DIE PRESSE" REPLAYS ITS FAVORITE THEME: LOOK AT THE DOUBLE STANDARDS ON THE PART OF ANTI-WALDHEIM LIBERALS  
-----

2. IN A FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY ON SEPTEMBER 14, THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE CONSERVATIVE VIENNA DAILY "DIE PRESSE", THOMAS CHORHERR -- FOR YEARS A PROLIFIC AND UNWAVERING VOICE IN DEFENSE OF WALDHEIM'S HONOR -- SARCASTICALLY NOTED THE STRIKING PARALLELS UNCOVERED IN THE WAR-TIME PAST OF FRENCH PRESIDENT MITTERRAND, FORMER AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT WALDHEIM, AND THE EMINENT GERMAN LITERARY CRITIC REICH-RANICKI. (FYI. REICH-RANICKI REPORTEDLY COLLABORATED WITH THE POLISH SECRET SERVICE IN LONDON TO REPATRIATE POLISH EXILES SHORTLY AFTER THE WAR. END FYI.) CHORHERR LAMENTED THAT "WHILE THREE INDIVIDUALS HAD DONE SIMILAR THINGS, ALAS, THE PUBLIC CERTAINLY DEVELOPED A HIGHLY SELECTIVE PERCEPTION OF WHAT ARE ANALOGOUS CASES." "WHY DOES THE PUBLIC EXCUSE MITTERRAND (AND REICH-RANICKI) FROM ALMOST EVERYTHING, WHILE FORGIVING WALDHEIM HARDLY ANYTHING?" CHORHERR ASSERTED THE FACT MITTERRAND WAS A SOCIALIST EXPLAINED THE DIFFERENT TREATMENT OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS. (FYI. IN THE PAST CHORHERR'S FLAMING JOURNALISM IN DEFENSE OF WALDHEIM REPEATEDLY ATTACKED THE LEFT-WING INTELLECTUALS FOR SELECTIVELY JUDGING THE MORALS OF PUBLIC FIGURES SUCH AS WALDHEIM. END FYI.)

-----  
A WALDHEIM-CRITICAL "KURIER" SEES FEW PARALLELS BUT MANY DIFFERENCES  
-----

3. THE FOREIGN POLICY EDITOR OF "KURIER," OTTO KLAMBAUER, ALSO FOCUSED ON PARALLELS BETWEEN MITTERRAND'S WARTIME RECORD AND THAT OF WALDHEIM. (FYI: "KURIER" HAS BEEN CONTINUOUSLY CRITICAL OF WALDHEIM THROUGHOUT THE AFFAIR. END FYI.) HOWEVER, KLAMBAUER GAVE SEVERAL REASONS WHY, IN HIS VIEW, CRITICISM OF MITTERRAND HAS BEEN, AND IS LIKELY TO REMAIN, CONSIDERABLY MORE MODERATE THAN THAT OF WALDHEIM. WHILE REVELATIONS ABOUT WALDHEIM'S WAR-TIME PAST CAME DURING HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, MITTERRAND IS NEARING THE END OF HIS POLITICAL CAREER. MOREOVER, MITTERRAND HAS TAKEN A FORWARD STRATEGY REGARDING SPECULATION OVER HIS PAST, WHILE WALDHEIM STONEWALLED AND COVERED UP HIS RECORD. KLAMBAUER CONCLUDED: "NOBODY OUTSIDE FRANCE TODAY THINKS ABOUT INTERFERING IN THE INNER-FRENCH DEBATE." WITH WALDHEIM, THE OPPOSITE WAS TRUE.

-----  
COMMENT  
-----

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**FOUO**

4. ALTHOUGH CHORHERR'S LATEST ARTICLE IN DEFENSE OF WALDHEIM DOES NOT COME AS A SURPRISE TO THE POLITICAL OBSERVER, HIS WELL PLACED EDITORIAL DISCOURSE ABOUT "EQUAL TREATMENT" OF PRESIDENTS WITH WAR-TIME PASTS MAY BE ONE MORE ELEMENT IN AN ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN TO REHABILITATE WALDHEIM. THIS IS NOT CLEAR. WHAT IS EVIDENT IS THE

IMPLICIT ASSUMPTION THAT CITIZENS AND LEADERS OF AUSTRIA, A COUNTRY DEFEATED IN WORLD WAR II, AND FRANCE, A COUNTRY LIBERATED IN WORLD WAR II, WILL OR SHOULD BE TREATED IN THE SAME MANNER. WHILE "KURIER" CLEARLY TAKES A LESS DEFENSIVE POSITION IN DISCUSSING MITTERRAND AND WALDHEIM, ITS FOREIGN POLICY EDITOR KLAMBAUER HIGHLIGHTS THE IRONY THAT A COUNTRY WHOSE INTELLECTUAL ELITE CASTIGATED WALDHEIM FOR YEARS, NOW FINDS ITSELF ENTANGLED IN A MORE OR LESS ANALOGOUS SOUL SEARCHING DEBATE. CORBETT

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL