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DOCUMENT_ID: 17295496
INQNO: DOC31D 00251242
DOCNO: TEL 008383 94
PRODUCER: VIENNA
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19940922
TOR: 105600
DOCPREC: O
ORIGDATE: 199409221426
MHFNO: 94 7911061
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER
OO RUEAIIB
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
MSI3436
OO RUEHC
DE RUEHVI #8383/01 2651426
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 221426Z SEP 94
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5395
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1136
INFO RUEHVEN/USMISSION USVIENNA IMMEDIATE 6965
RUEADWW/THE WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUCPDC/USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
BT

CONTROLS
UNCLAS VIENNA 008383

USIS

USIA FOR WEU

STATE FOR EUR/CE, INR/WEA AND INR/P

USDOC FOR 4220/IEP/EUR OEW FOR P. COMBS

WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE

USVIENNA FOR USDEL CSCE AND UNVIE

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

TAGS: AU PREL PGOV
COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN NEWS ROUND-UP, SEPTEMBER 21 - 22, 1994

SUMMARY

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

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1. THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT WILL RATIFY THE EU MEMBERSHIP TREATY ON NOVEMBER 11, THAT IS AFTER NATIONAL ELECTIONS. BOSNIAN PRIME MINISTER HARIS SILADZIC ADVOCATES HIS COUNTRY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NATO PROGRAM "PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE". ONE OF THE MAJOR ISSUES THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ALOIS MOCK WILL RAISE IN THE UN PLENARY ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK IS THE UN'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN OCTOBER 1995 AND THE QUESTION WHETHER FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY **KURT WALDHEIM** SHOULD BE INVITED. IN A TV ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION, PART OF

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THE RUN-UP TO ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 9, CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FREEDOM PARTY (FPO), JORG HAIDER, EXPRESSED CONTRADICTORY ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE CONCEPT OF NEUTRALITY.

"EU-TREATY RATIFICATION SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 11"

2. THE FRONT PAGE OF SEPTEMBER 21 "DIE PRESSE" CARRIES AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE RATIFICATION OF AUSTRIA'S EU MEMBERSHIP TREATY. THE PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP) HAD TO GIVE IN TO THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S (SPO) WISH TO FIX THE RATIFICATION DATE FOR NOVEMBER 11. THE TREATY WILL BE SUBMITTED ON NOVEMBER 7, IN THE CONSTITUENT MEETING OF THE NEWLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT.

VICE-CHANCELLOR AND OVP CHAIRMAN ERHARD BUSEK DRYLY COMMENTED THAT HE "HAD TO ACCEPT THE SPO'S REFUSAL". THE OVP COULD OBTAIN A SPECIAL MEETING OF PARLIAMENT BY FORCE - BUT COULD NOT REQUEST THE EU TREATY BE PUT ON THE AGENDA.

ACCORDING TO CHANCELLOR FRANZ VRANITZKY, THE OVP RAISED THIS ISSUE FOR MERE REASONS OF ELECTION TACTICS. THE "HISTORIC EVENT" OF RATIFICATION SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, VRANITZKY SAID. HE IS CONFIDENT THAT ALL THE EU MEMBER STATES WILL RATIFY THE TREATY IN TIME BEFORE AUSTRIA BECOMES A MEMBER IN 1995.

FOREIGN MINISTER MOCK (OVP) STRESSED THAT HE CRITICISED THE SPO'S OPPOSITION TO EU TREATY RATIFICATION BEFORE THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS. HE CHARACTERIZED THE SPO'S REPROACHES AS "STUPID".

"BOSNIA WANTS TO JOIN NATO'S PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM"

3. THE "STANDARD" REPORTS ON SEPTEMBER 21 THAT THE BOSNIAN HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, PRIME MINISTER HARIS SILAJDZIC, SUBMITTED HIS COUNTRY'S APPLICATION TO JOIN NATO'S "PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE" PROGRAM. SILAJDZIC ALSO SUPPORTS A LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AND CRITICISED THE EU FOR DEPRIVING HIS COUNTRY OF ITS RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE.

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SILAJDZIC IS CONVINCED THAT NATO IS PREPARED TO TAKE ACTION ON THE BALKANS, IF THE UN BLUE HELMETS REQUEST IT. AS THE

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BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT LACKS THE FINANCIAL MEANS TO MAKE PEACE IN BOSNIA, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY EITHER TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO OR TO LAUNCH A NATO INTERVENTION. SILAJDZIC DENIED THE REPROACH THAT BOSNIAN GOVERNMENT TROOPS HAD PROVOKED THE RECENT ATTACKS OF THE SERBS. THE BOSNIANS ARE NO VICTIMS, WHO "LIE DOWN AND DIE."

"FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN WITHOUT FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY **KURT WALDHEIM**?"

4. IN A COMMENT IN THE DAILY "KURIER" OF SEPTEMBER 21, CHIEF EDITOR HANS RAUSCHER PICKS UP

A WELL-KNOWN PROBLEM:

KURT WALDHEIM IS STILL ON THE "WATCHLIST" AND THEREFORE IS NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES. THE SO-CALLED "HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT" CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE UN AND THE USA, HOWEVER, ENTITLES THE WORLD ORGANISATION TO INVITE WHOMEVER IT WANTS. ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY, THIS WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE THE FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY **KURT WALDHEIM**.

RAUSCHER CALLS THE REPROACHES AGAINST WALDHEIM "IN PART COMPLETELY FALSE ('WAR CRIMINAL') AND MOTIVATED BY HYPOCRISY." IT WOULD BE TIME FOR A CONCILIATORY FINAL GESTURE.

CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY, WHO HAS BEEN INVITED BY UN GENERAL SECRETARY BOUTROS GHALI, AND PRESIDENT KLESTIL ARE SUPPOSED TO TAKE PART IN THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN NEW YORK.

"DISPUTE OVER NEUTRALITY"

5. IN A NATIONALLY TELEVISED ELECTION DEBATE ON SEPTEMBER 21, FPO CHAIRMAN HAIDER ARGUED THAT THE CONCEPT OF NEUTRALITY WAS NOT TENABLE IN A EUROPEAN SECURITY ALLIANCE. HAIDER CALLED FOR AUSTRIA TO JOIN NATO AND END NEUTRALITY. HIS OPPONENT, CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY, UNDERScoreD THAT NEUTRALITY WAS A "VALUE AS SUCH THAT MUST NOT BE

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CHALLENGED". VRANITZKY SAID THAT AUSTRIA SHOULD MAINTAIN ITS NEUTRALITY AND CONTRIBUTE TO A EUROPEAN SECURITY SYSTEM THAT WOULD GO BEYOND NATO AND WOULD ALSO INCLUDE MEASURES TO FIGHT INTERNATIONAL CRIME.
SPRINGER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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