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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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TEXT
SUBJ: DISSUADING GOA FROM ADVOCATING WALDHEIM CAUSE
REF: A) STATE 274793, B) VIENNA 8884, C) VIENNA 8886

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON OCTOBER 20 DCM PRESENTED DEMARCHE (PER INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REF A) TO WOLFGANG SCHALLENBERG, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE AUSTRIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER). SCHALLENBERG WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A NOTETAKER. DCM DELIVERED ALL EIGHT TALKING POINTS, AFTER WHICH SCHALLENBERG GAVE THE "OFFICIAL" MFA RESPONSE.

3. SCHALLENBERG STATED THE MFA IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE U.S. POSITION, AND DOES NOT AGREE WITH IT. FURTHERMORE, THE MFA IS UNHAPPY WITH THE STRONG LANGUAGE OF THE DEMARCHE. AUSTRIA DOES NOT AGREE THAT RAISING THE SUBJECT OF WALDHEIM WILL DAMAGE THE CLOSE U.S.-AUSTRIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN THE AUSTRIAN VIEW, IT WOULD BE NATURAL AND NORMAL FOR THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL TO INVITE THE FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL, KURT WALDHEIM, TO THE U.N. FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. THE GOA DOES NOT VIEW ITS RAISING OF THE

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WALDHEIM ISSUE IN THE INVITATION CONTEXT AS DETRACTING FROM THE U.N.'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

4. SCHALLENBERG CONTINUED THAT THE GOA PLACES GREAT VALUE AND IMPORTANCE ON U.S.-AUSTRIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND IS WELL AWARE THAT AUSTRIA OWES ITS LIBERTY TO THE U.S., WHICH WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN FREEING THE COUNTRY FROM FASCISM. AUSTRIANS ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE U.S. ACTIONS FOLLOWING WWII, BOTH IN RELATION TO MARSHALL PLAN ASSISTANCE AND IN ASSISTANCE RENDERED IN NEGOTIATING THE STATE TREATY. THE GOA VIEWS THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR AS SEPARATE FROM THIS DEBT OF GRATITUDE. SCHALLENBERG STRESSED THAT MANY AUSTRIANS WERE NAZIS AND COLLABORATORS, BUT IN HIS VIEW, WALDHEIM WAS NOT ONE OF THEM. HE CONTINUED THAT NO PROOF OF THE ALLEGATIONS HAD BEEN PRESENTED, WHILE PROOF AGAINST OTHERS DID EXIST. HE NOTED THAT THE SCHALLENBERG FAMILY WAS IN A POSITION TO KNOW; WALDHEIM, HE SAID, HAD BEEN INVOLVED WITH KARL GRUBER AND THE AUSTRIAN RESISTANCE. IN SUM, IN SCHALLENBERG'S ESTIMATION, THE CASE AGAINST WALDHEIM WAS UNFAIR AND REGRETTABLE. IN THE VIEW OF THE GOA, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FILES WERE OPENED. SCHALLENBERG CONCLUDED THAT HE WAS SURPRISED BY THE STRONG LANGUAGE OF THE DEMARCHE.

WASHINGTON VISIT AGENDA

5. WOLFGANG SCHALLENBERG, ACCOMPANIED BY ALBERT ROHAN, THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE POLITICAL SECTION AT THE MFA AND THE HEAD OF THE EAST AND SOUTHEAST EUROPE DIVISION IN THE MINISTRY, WILL VISIT WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 2-4. (FYI: BOTH ARE ASSUMED TO BE PROFESSIONAL FRIENDS OF WALDHEIM. END FYI). DCM PROBED FOR THE AGENDA SCHALLENBERG MAY HAVE FOR HIS VISIT AND FOR INDICATIONS AS TO WHETHER HE PLANNED TO RAISE THE WALDHEIM ISSUE. SCHALLENBERG'S RESPONSES GAVE NO CLUES TO HIS AGENDA BEYOND HIS DESIRE FOR A TOUR D'HORIZON. ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER HE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS PFP DURING HIS PENTAGON CALL ON A/S JOSEPH NYE, SCHALLENBERG SAID THAT IF ASKED HE WOULD DISCUSS THE GOA'S STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO SECURITY ISSUES. (FYI: THE CHANCELLOR HAS ANNOUNCED AUSTRIA'S INTENT TO JOIN PFP, AND THE GOA IS ON RECORD AS SEEKING OBSERVER STATUS IN THE WEU IMMEDIATELY UPON ENTRY INTO THE EU. END FYI)

6. DCM ASKED WHETHER SCHALLENBERG EXPECTED TO RAISE SPECIFIC ISSUES DURING HIS MEETING WITH A/S HOLBROOKE, BUT SCHALLENBERG PROVIDED NO SPECIFICS. SCHALLENBERG'S SCHEDULE INCLUDES A CALL ON AMBASSADOR RICHARD SCHIFTER; HE WAS, HOWEVER, UNAWARE OF SCHIFTER'S PLANS TO VISIT VIENNA AT THE END OF OCTOBER.

PLANS TO COMMEMORATE LIBERATION

7. DCM TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK ABOUT GOA PLANS TO COMMEMORATE THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRIA'S LIBERATION IN WORLD WAR II, THE FOURTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE STATE TREATY, AND THE THOUSANDTH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRIAN HISTORY. ACCORDING TO SCHALLENBERG, PLANS ARE IN A STATE OF DISARRAY, IN PART BECAUSE OF THE FEDERAL NATURE OF THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. HE NOTED THAT AT THE STATE LEVEL VARIOUS PLANS ARE UNDERWAY, BUT NO CENTRAL

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AUTHORITY EXISTS. APPARENTLY THE PLANNING FOR 1995 AND 1996 EVENTS OVERLAPS. SCHALLENBERG SAID HE WAS, HIMSELF, CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A PROJECT TO TRY TO PULL THINGS TOGETHER. IN THIS CONTEXT HE REMARKED THAT FM MOCK HAD BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER ISSUES AND AS YET HAD NOT FOCUSED ON THE IMPLICATIONS, OPPORTUNITIES, OR PLANS FOR THE 1995 ANNIVERSARY.

8. FYI: DCM ASKED U.K. COUNTERPART DURING OCTOBER 14 LUNCH WHETHER HMG PLANS ANY EVENTS IN CONNECTION WITH 1995 ANNIVERSARY. U.K. RESPONDED THAT LONDON WOULD SEND A BRASS BAND TO MARCH IN THE RINGSTRASSE PARADE BUT HAD NO/NO PLANS FOR HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATION. END FYI. HUNT

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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