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SUBJECT: SPECIAL REPORT: AUSTRIA -- TEN YEARS AFTER THE
AFFAIR WALDHEIM, FEBRUARY 26, 1996

SUMMARY

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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1. TEN YEARS AFTER THE AUSTRIAN WEEKLY "PROFIL" DISCLOSED THE NAZI PAST OF THE THEN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE **KURT WALDHEIM**, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS IN NEW YORK, ELAN STEINBERG, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE DISCLOSURE, TALKS ABOUT THE LESSONS THAT HE, AND PARTICULARLY THE AUSTRIANS, HAVE LEARNED FROM THE WALDHEIM CASE. IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION, "PROFIL" PUBLISHES AN INTERVIEW WITH STEINBERG, UNDER THE HEADLINE "AUSTRIA IS NOT WALDHEIM'S COUNTRY ANY MORE."

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TRANSLATED EXCERPTS FOLLOW.

AUSTRIA HAS CHANGED

2. IS WALDHEIM A LIAR -- OR A WAR CRIMINAL? "WE ARE NO COURT, AND THEREFORE DON'T CALL ANYBODY A WAR CRIMINAL. AND MR. WIESENTHAL IS NO COURT EITHER. **KURT WALDHEIM** WILL HAVE TO DISCUSS HIS WAR CRIMES WITH HIS CREATOR. . . . WALDHEIM -- A LIAR? WITHOUT ANY DOUBT. ACCORDING TO THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE HISTORIANS' COMMISSION, WALDHEIM WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A MEMBER OF TWO NAZI-ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS . . . HE TRIED TO CHARGE THE AUSTRIANS WITH THE BURDEN OF HIS PERSONAL PROBLEMS. THIS REVEALS VERY MUCH ABOUT THIS MAN'S CHARACTER. . . I CONSIDERED THIS TO BE IMPORTANT, BECAUSE AS UN SECRETARY GENERAL, WALDHEIM WAS THE HIGHEST-RANKING HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER OF THE WORLD."

"I THINK THE WORLD HAS CHANGED A LITTLE BECAUSE OF WALDHEIM; AUSTRIA HAS CHANGED A LITTLE, AND I MYSELF HAVE CHANGED A LITTLE AS WELL. THE IDEA THAT ONE CAN SIMPLY BURY AND FORGET ONE'S PAST, THAT ONE'S PAST IS IN NO RELATION AT ALL WITH THE HISTORICAL TRUTH, AND THAT NATIONS CAN JUST IGNORE THEIR HISTORY -- THIS IDEA WAS ULTIMATELY REVISED BY THE WALDHEIM CASE."

THE ROLE OF THE U.S.

"AMERICA, TOGETHER WITH THE FORMER SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COUNTRIES, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR. MR. WALDHEIM IN AUSTRIA WAS NOT UNIMPORTANT, AFTER ALL. WHY SHOULD AUSTRIA ASSUME MORE RESPONSIBILITY THAN THE UNITED STATES OR THE USSR FOR THE FACT THAT THIS MAN BECAME OUR REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS? ALL THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES KNEW ABOUT WALDHEIM'S PAST, BUT STILL, THEY LET HIM BECOME UN SECRETARY GENERAL. . . . AND AFTER THE WAR? AMERICA CONCEALED ITS KNOWLEDGE. THUS, THE U.S. IS GUILTY AS WELL. IT IS NOT JUST AN AUSTRIAN MATTER. ALL THESE COUNTRIES ARE RESPONSIBLE. AND THEY ALL LEARNED THEIR LESSON."

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AUSTRIA HAS LEARNED A LOT

"WITHOUT THE WALDHEIM CASE, CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAY WHAT HE SAID THEN, NOR GONE TO ISRAEL. PRESIDENT KLESTIL WOULD NEVER HAVE VISITED ISRAEL EITHER TO SAY WHAT HE SAID. ... AND WALDHEIM HAS DISAPPEARED. AUSTRIA IS A PART OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD AGAIN. AUSTRIA IS NOT WALDHEIM'S AUSTRIA ANY MORE. .. THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS NOT LEARNED HIS LESSON, IS WALDHEIM HIMSELF. AND NOW THE AUSTRIANS HAVE TO COPE WITH HAIDER -- LIKE THE FRENCH WITH LE PEN, THE AMERICANS WITH DAVID DUKE OR PAT BUCHANAN. MAYBE ONE DAY HE WILL REALIZE THAT HE IS ON THE WRONG PATH."

STEINBERG ON WIESENTHAL AND ELIE WIESEL

"BUT I CANNOT ACCUSE WALDHEIM ON THE ONE HAND AND REMAIN SILENT ON WHAT I HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT WIESENTHAL ON THE OTHER. WIESENTHAL TRIED TO UNDERMINE THE EFFORTS OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO PUT WALDHEIM ON THE WATCHLIST. ... IF I COMBAT THE REVISIONISM OF THOSE WHO FALSIFY WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE WAR, I ALSO HAVE TO COMBAT THE REVISIONISM THAT FALSIFIES WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE CRIMINALS AFTER THE WAR. ... WIESEL WAS THE MORAL VOICE OF THOSE WHO HAD SURVIVED. I WAS MOVED, WHEN WIESEL WAS ON THE HELDENPLATZ IN VIENNA. WE'VE THUS COME BACK TO THE POINT WHERE WE STARTED FROM: TODAY, ELIE WIESEL CAN COME TO THE HELDENPLATZ, AND HE ATTRACTS A HUGE CROWD."

END EXCERPTS.
FINN

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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