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SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN NEWS ROUND-UP FOR SEPTEMBER 16/17/18,
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SUMMARY:

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1. THIS REPORT COVERS THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: JOERG HAIDER'S CHOICE OF PETER SICHROVSKY, A WELL-KNOWN JEWISH AUTHOR AND NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENT, TO RUN FOR HIS PARTY IN THE EU ELECTIONS, PROVOKED TURMOIL AND REJECTION AMONG THE JEWISH COMMUNITY.

ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE, PART OF THE GOLD SEIZED BY THE NAZI REGIME MAY BE IN SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS. FORMER HEAD OF THE U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANK, PAUL VOLCKER, LEADS A COMMISSION THAT DEALS WITH JEWISH ASSETS IN SWITZERLAND.

FORMER UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND FORMER AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** CRITICIZES THE UNITED STATES' OBJECTION TO EXTENDING UN SECRETARY GENERAL BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI'S TERM OF OFFICE.

COMMENTARY: IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BOSNIAN ELECTIONS, "KURIER" COMMENTS ON MOMCILO KRAJISNIK'S POTENTIAL LEADERSHIP IN THE NEWLY-ELECTED BOSNIAN PRESIDENCY. THE PAPER POINTS TO THE IRONY THAT A HARDLINER AND CLOSE FRIEND OF RADOVAN KARADZIC'S AND DECLARED ENEMY OF A MULTI-ETHNIC STATE, SHOULD BECOME BOSNIAN PRESIDENT. "DIE PRESSE" COMMENTS THAT NO MATTER WHO IS GOING TO HEAD THE PRESIDENCY, THE BOSNIANS HAVE TO "BUILD THEIR OWN FUTURE DAY BY DAY."
END SUMMARY.

FPO CHOOSES WELL-KNOWN JEWISH AUTHOR AS CANDIDATE FOR EU ELECTIONS -- JEWISH COMMUNITY IS APPALLED.

2. FPO PARTY CHIEF JOERG HAIDER'S SECOND CANDIDATE ON THE FPO LIST FOR THE OCTOBER 13 ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS PETER SICHROVSKY.

THIS CHOICE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE TURMOIL AMONG THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, AS SICHROVSKY IS JEWISH. SICHROVSKY IS AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS ON THE CHILDREN OF JEWS AND NATIONAL SOCIALISTS, AS WELL AS RENOWNED JOURNALIST, EDITOR, AND CO-FOUNDER OF THE AUSTRIAN DAILY "DER STANDARD."

LEON ZELMAN, HEAD OF THE JEWISH WELCOME SERVICE IN VIENNA, SAID HE WAS "TERRIFIED AND SHOCKED" THAT SICHROVSKY AGREED TO THE CANDIDACY.

PAUL GROSZ, HEAD OF THE "JUEDISCHE KULTUSGEMEINDE," SAID HAIDER WAS USING SICHROVSKY AS A "SHOW-CASE JEW AND SHOW-CASE DEMOCRAT... THIS GOES BEYOND THE LIMITS OF TASTE, BUT HAIDER HAS NEVER PAID MUCH ATTENTION TO TASTE."

OSCAR BRONNER, PUBLISHER OF THE DAILY "DER STANDARD," REMARKED THAT HAIDER HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR A LONG TIME FOR A "PRESENTABLE JEW."

IRONICALLY, SICHROVSKY IS WRITING AN AUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY OF IGNAZ BUBIS, PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN "ZENTRALRAT DER

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JUDEN" (CENTRAL COUNCIL OF JEWS).

EAVESDROPPING?

LEON ZELMAN AS WELL AS FORMER COLLEAGUES SPECULATE THAT SICHROVSKY MIGHT BE DOING THIS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE LOW-DOWN AND INTERNAL INFORMATION ABOUT HAIDER'S PARTY, WHICH HE MIGHT LATER ON USE IN PUBLICATIONS.

SIGRID LOEFFLER, RENOWNED LITERARY CRITIC AND JOURNALIST, WRITES IN THE CONSERVATIVE DAILY "DIE PRESSE" THAT "SICHROVSKY, A NOTORIOUS JOB-HOPPER, WILL NOT SERVE THE FPO'S INTENTIONS. HOW PRESENTABLE IS A CANDIDATE WITH A REPUTATION TO HAVE SEVERAL TIMES SOUGHT ACCESS TO POSITIONS AND JOBS IN ORDER TO DISCREDIT THEM LATER IN PUBLIC?"

NAZI GOLD I
N SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS?

3. AS REPORTED IN THE DAILY "DIE PRESSE," PART OF THE GOLD SEIZED BY THE NAZI REGIME MAY HAVE FOUND ITS WAY INTO SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS. ON THE FIRST DAYS FOLLOWING THE "ANSCHLUSS," 78 TONS OF CURRENCY GOLD WERE SEIZED FROM THE AUSTRIAN CENTRAL BANK, AND PRIVATE PERSONS HAD TO HAND IN THEIR GOLD FOR A MINUSCULE COMPENSATION. DURING THE 40'S AND 50'S, SOME 50 TONS OF GOLD WERE RETURNED TO AUSTRIA.

"DIE PRESSE" REPORTS THAT THE LEGAL SITUATION IS TRICKY, AS THE INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPLAINED THAT THE AUSTRIAN STATE TREATY CONTAINS A PROVISION THAT AUSTRIA FORGOES ANY CLAIM TO PROPERTY DATING BACK TO THE PERIOD OF THE "ANSCHLUSS." ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ALLIES ARE REQUIRED TO RETURN ANY AUSTRIAN PROPERTY TO THE AUSTRIANS.

DIE PRESSE NOTES THAT IT IS LEGALLY UNCLEAR WHETHER SWITZERLAND COULD BE COMPELLED TO RETURN THE GOLD.

PAUL VOLCKER INVESTIGATES

"DER STANDARD" OF 09/16 CHOSE FORMER HEAD OF THE U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BANK PAUL VOLCKER FOR ITS COLUMN "PERSON OF THE DAY." VOLCKER HEADS AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION DEALING WITH JEWISH ASSETS IN SWITZERLAND. AS THE PAPER REMARKS, "THE 68-YEAR-OLD FINANCIAL EXPERT TOUCHES A RAW NERVE IN SWITZERLAND. THE COUNTRY HAS DENIED FOR DECADES THAT NAY MONEY OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS MAY BE IN SWISS ACCOUNTS..."

VOLCKER REMARKED THAT THE SWISS GOVERNMENT WAS REACTING SURPRISINGLY SLOWLY TO THE ISSUE, AND THAT SWITZERLAND

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WAS UNDER PRESSURE TO COME TO TERMS WITH ITS ROLE DURING THE NAZI REGIME."

WALDHEIM CRITICIZES U.S. FOR BARRING RE-ELECTION OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL:

4. AS "DIE PRESSE" REPORTS ON 09/17, FORMER UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND FORMER AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** CRITICIZED THE WAY IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS BARRING THE RE-ELECTION OF BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI AS UN SECRETARY GENERAL. WALDHEIM POINTED OUT THAT TRADITIONALLY, THE DECISION ABOUT WHO SHOULD BE SECRETARY GENERAL WAS PREPARED IN CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS RATHER THAN IN PUBLIC.

THE DAILY "DER STANDARD" REGRETS IN A COMMENTARY TODAY THAT THIS DISPUTE IS CARRIED OUT AT THE EXPENSE OF THE UNITED NATIONS. COMMENTATOR ERIC FREY WRITES:

"THE 51ST UN PLENARY SESSION IS ILL-FATED: NOT ONLY ARE THE UNITED NATIONS VIRTUALLY BANKRUPT, IT IS ALSO STUCK IN A LEADERSHIP CRISIS.

IT IS MOSTLY PRESIDENT CLINTON WHO IS TO BLAME. FOR ELECTION CONSIDERATIONS, HE DECIDED MONTHS AGO TO OBJECT TO A SECOND TERM OF OFFICE FOR THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL. SOME COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE CHAOTIC MANAGEMENT STYLE OF BOUTROS-GHALI ARE NOT UNJUSTIFIED, BUT THE WAY IN WHICH WASHINGTON IS TRYING TO REMOVE A SENIOR DIPLOMAT HAS EVEN SHOCKED ITS ALLIES. AFTER ALL, THE OUTSTANDING U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN ARE THE MAJOR REASON FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S FINANCIAL CRISIS..."

BOSNIAN ELECTIONS

5. THE WIDELY-READ DAILY "KURIER" (CIRCULATION: 500,000) COMMENTED ON 09/17 ON THE POSSIBILITY FOR MOMCILO KRAJISNIK TO HEAD THE 3-MEMBER PRESIDENCY OF BOSNIA:

"IT WOULD BE A BAD JOKE OF HISTORY IF THE PRESIDENT OF BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA WAS TO BE A SERBIAN HARDLINER WHO FOUGHT WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH AGAINST THIS MULTI-ETHNIC STATE AND WHO IS KNOWN TO BE A CLOSE FRIEND OF RADOVAN KARADZIC'S....

EVEN THOUGH HIS POWER IS BALANCED BY THE TWO OTHER PRESIDENCY MEMBERS' RIGHT TO VETO, KRAJISNIK WOULD BE ABLE TO FOSTER THE FURTHER DISINTEGRATION OF BOSNIA AND HERCEGOVINA.

THE ELECTIONS HAVE NOT PAVED THE ROAD TOWARD PEACE OR RECONCILIATION FOR THE WAR-TORN COUNTRY. THERE IS NOT

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YET A TRACE OF CONSENSUS ABOUT A COMMON STATE OR COMMON LIFE AMONG THE THREE HOSTILE CAMPS.

ONE OF THE TANGIBLE SUCCESSES OF THE ELECTION, WHICH WERE HELD MAINLY DUE TO U.S. PRESSURE, IS THE FACT THAT NO VIOLENCE WAS INVOLVED. IT IS ALSO OBVIOUS THAT A WITHDRAWAL OF THE IFOR TROOPS BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, AS THE UNITED STATES WISHES, WOULD BE FAR TOO EARLY."

INDEPENDENT "DIE PRESSE" (CIRCULATION: 90,000) ARGUES:

"... EVEN IF KRAJISNIK IS WILLING TO OPERATE IN SARAJEVO; EVEN IF HE IS ALSO READY TO ACCEPT THE SECOND RANK AND LEAVE THE LEADERSHIP TO IZETBEGOVIC, WHO WON MORE VOTES; AND EVEN IF ALL THIS ALSO APPLIES TO THE CROATIAN ZUBAK, IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE FUTURE IS UNDER A LUCKY STAR. THE BOSNIANS HAVE TO BUILD IT DAY BY DAY. DECISIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY HAVE TO BE UNANIMOUS, AND THIS GIVES EQUAL POWER TO THE LITTLE CROAT AND THE BIG SERB."

FINN

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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