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DEPT FOR INR/B AND DRL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/06/06

TEXT

TAGS: PINR, PREL, SZ, TU  
SUBJECT: SWISS EMBASSY MINISTER COUNSELOR MARKUS KUMMER'S  
- ANTI-SEMITIC VIEWS

1. CLASSIFIED BY ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR MARC SIEVERS,  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA, REASON 1.5 (D)

2. (C) AT A RECENT RECEPTION HOSTED BY A SENIOR GERMAN DIPLOMAT,  
EMBOFF HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME MARKUS  
KUMMER, THE NEW SWISS MINISTER COUNSELOR WHO ARRIVED IN ANKARA ON  
DECEMBER 5, 1996. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, THE SUBJECT  
OF HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS IN SWITZERLAND AND CURRENT SWISS  
GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO WORK OUT APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION  
MECHANISMS FOR HOLOCAUST VICTIMS CAME UP. KUMMER'S REACTIONS O  
THIS SUBJECT WERE DISTURBING AND VISCERALLY ANTI-SEMITIC.

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW  
 Retain class'n  
 Declassify  
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after \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. (C) ACCORDING TO KUMMER, CURRENT DISCUSSIONS OVER SWITZERLAND'S WARTIME HANDLING OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST VICTIMS' ASSETS HAVE BEEN OVERBLOWN BY "A FEW INFLUENTIAL JEWS IN NEW YORK." WHEN PRESSED FURTHER, KUMMER NOTED THAT THE BRONFMANS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR "MAKING A BIG DEAL OUT NOTHING," AND SEEKING TO TARNISH SWITZERLAND'S REPUTATION. EMBOFF VENTURED THAT THE BRONFMANS WERE CANADIANS BASED IN TORONTO, TO WHICH KUMMER RETORTED THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER SINCE "THOSE JEWS ARE ALL THE SAME" OUT OF THE BLUE, HE ADDED THAT, IN THE PAST, FOMER AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** SIMILARLY HD BEEN HOUNDED BY UNFAIR JEWISH ALLEGATIONS.

4 (C) COMMENT: EMBOFF WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THE INTENITY OF KUMMER'S UNPROVOKED ANTI-SEMITIC VIEWS. E THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO DOCUMENT THEM FOR THE RECRD. END COMMENT. RICCIARDONE

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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