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SUBJECT: FORMER CIA OFFICIAL DEFENDS WALDHEIM IN HIS BOOK
"HOW TO GET ON THE WATCHLIST"

REF: VIENNA 8021

SUMMARY

1. ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1997, AUSTRIAN MEDIA REPORTED ON A BOOK BY SELF-STYLED FORMER CIA OFFICER JOHN R. MAPOTHER, WITH THE TITLE "HOW TO GET ON THE WATCHLIST -- A TRUE STORY FROM AMERICA." THE AUTHOR CLAIMS THAT **KURT WALDHEIM**, AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT FROM 1986 TO 1992 AND UN SECRETARY GENERAL FROM 1971 TO 1981, WAS PUT ON THE U.S. LIST OF UNWANTED ALIENS UPON THE WISH OF "INFLUENTIAL PRESSURE GROUPS AND IMPORTANT MEDIA." ON SEPTEMBER 8, THE GERMAN EDITION OF THE BOOK, "WIE MAN AUF DIE WATCHLIST KOMMT -- EINE WAHRE GESCHICHTE AUS AMERIKA" WAS PRESENTED IN VIENNA BY FRITZ MOLDEN, HEAD OF THE BOOK'S PUBLISHING HOUSE, AND ANDREAS KHOL, FLOOR LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP) -- THE LATTER, AS HE STRESSED, IN HIS PRIVATE CAPACITY RATHER THAN HIS PARTY FUNCTION. THE PRESENTATION WAS ATTENDED BY FAMOUS NAZI HUNTER SIMON WIESENTHAL. FOLLOWING IS A WRAP-UP OF THE MAIN STATEMENTS MADE AT THE BOOK PRESENTATION AT VIENNA'S "CONCORDIA PRESS CLUB," AS WELL AS OF THE SUBSEQUENT NEWSPAPER COVERAGE.

THE AUTHOR

2. JOHN R. MAPOTHER, 75 YEARS OLD, WAS BORN IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, IN 1922. HE SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMY DURING WORLD WAR II AND, HE STATES, STARTED WORKING FOR THE CIA IN POST-WAR EUROPE. HE WAS STATIONED IN VIENNA (1953 TO 1958), BERLIN AND BONN. THE AUTHOR EXPLAINS THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN THE WALDHEIM ISSUE FOR HISTORICAL REASONS -AND OUT OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

THE PRESENTATION:

3. THE PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK TOOK PLACE IN A GENERALLY PRO-WALDHEIM ATMOSPHERE. WHILE SEVERAL GUESTS AND JOURNALISTS ASKED HOW THE PROCESS THAT LANDED WALDHEIM ON THE "WATCHLIST" COULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED OR PREVENTED, THERE WAS NO ONE WHO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THIS DECISION.

"U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS MANIPULATED..."

ANDREAS KHOL, OVP FLOOR LEADER, WHO EMPHASIZED, THAT HE WAS NOT SPEAKING AS AN OVP POLITICIAN BUT IN HIS PRIVATE CAPACITY, READ AND SUMMARIZED SECTIONS FROM MAPOTHER'S BOOK. KHOL, TOO, IS THE AUTHOR OF A BOOK ABOUT **KURT**

WALDHEIM, WHICH APPEARED SOON AFTER THE WATCHLIST DECISION WAS TAKEN. THE TITLE OF THE BOOK WAS "THE CAMPAIGN -- KURT WALDHEIM, VICTIM OR PERPETRATOR?" ("KURT WALDHEIM -- OFFER ODER TAETER?") KHOL SAID HE GATHERED FROM MAPOTHER'S BOOK THAT THE AUTHOR LEANS TOWARD THE U.S. DEMOCRATS, WHO "WHEN THEY COME TO EUROPE, GENERALLY TEND TO HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN SOCIAL DEMOCRACY THAN IN OTHER POLITICAL FORCES." KHOL FOCUSSED ON THOSE PASSAGES THAT REFLECT MAPOTHER'S DISMAY WITH WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS ILL-FOUNDED ALLEGATIONS BY U.S. POLITICIANS, THE MEDIA, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE FOLLOWING TEXT EXCERPT, READ AT THE BOOK PRESENTATION, SEEMS TO SUMMARIZE BEST THE TRAIN OF THOUGHT UNDERLYING THE BOOK:

"IT IS BAD WHEN A GOVERNMENT PRODUCES WRONG RESULTS, BUT IT IS EVEN WORSE IF A GOVERNMENT APPARATUS HAS TO BE MANIPULATED TO DO SO."

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE?

4. TO THE QUESTION OF WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE TO PREVENT THE ONE-SIDED LOOK AT WALDHEIM'S PAST, KHOL SUGGESTED THAT ONE SHOULD HAVE IMMEDIATELY APPLIED THE RATHER STRICT U.S. MEDIA LAWS IN ORDER TO FORCE EDITORS TO LOOK MORE PROFOUNDLY INTO THE SUBJECT. AS THIS WAS NOT DONE, HOWEVER, "WALDHEIM WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO WAIT FOR JUDGMENT DAY TO FIND JUSTICE," KHOL SAID SARCASTICALLY.

POSITIVE EFFECTS ON AUSTRIA'S WAY OF LOOKING AT PAST:

5. OVP FLOOR LEADER KHOL ALSO ADMITTED THAT THE MATTER HAS HAD "HEALING EFFECTS" ON AUSTRIA'S WAY OF HANDLING ITS PAST, WHICH, IN THE EYES OF KHOL, HAS SINCE BECOME "MORE HONEST." IN THE LONGER RUN, THIS INCREASED SENSITIVITY "CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION OF A PARLIAMENTARY FUND FOR COMPENSATION PAYMENTS FOR VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM, ACCEPTED BY ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND FUNDED WITH SOME 2 BILLION SCHILLINGS." PUTTING THIS ATMOSPHERE IN A LARGER CONTEXT OF EU MEMBERSHIP, KHOL CONCLUDED WITH EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE FOR AUSTRIA TO BE AN ACCEPTED MEMBER OF THIS COMMUNITY, WHICH HE EXPRESSES WITH THE WORDS OF AN IRISH SONG, "ONE IS ONE, AND ONE ALONE, AND NEVER SHOULD IT BE SO."

SIMON WIESENTHAL'S STATEMENT:

6. SIMON WIESENTHAL, WHO HAD DEFENDED KURT WALDHEIM DURING THE TIME OF THE ACCUSATIONS (-- WIESENTHAL ADMITTED THAT WALDHEIM HAD LIED ABOUT HIS PAST, BUT INSISTED THAT HE WAS NOT A WAR CRIMINAL--), STRESSED AT THE BOOK PRESENTATION THAT IT WAS "EASY TO GET PUT ON THE

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WATCHLIST, BUT HARD TO GET OFF IT." HE ARGUED THAT THE PEOPLE WHO INITIATED THE WALDHEIM CRISIS -- THE AUSTRIAN SOCIALIST PARTY -- "COULD NOT IMAGINE A NON-SOCIALIST BECOMING AUSTRIAN FEDERAL PRESIDENT."

WIESENTHAL ALSO POINTED OUT THAT WALDHEIM WAS ELECTED WITH 500,000 VOTES MORE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR. "THESE WERE THE VOTES OF THE PEOPLE WHO PROTESTED AGAINST LETTING FOREIGN COUNTRIES DECIDE WHO WILL BE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT. AFTER THAT, THE FREEDOM PARTY (FPO) REGISTERED AN INCREASE FROM 5 TO 9.7 PERCENT. IT WAS EXACTLY THESE ANTI-FOREIGNER PROTESTERS WHO GAVE THE FPO THEIR VOTE."

MEDIA COVERAGE:

7. THE QUALITY DAILIES "DIE PRESSE," AND "DER STANDARD" AS WELL AS MASS-CIRCULATION "KURIER" COVERED THE BOOK PRESENTATION ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1997.

"DIE PRESSE" HEADLINES, "WHY WALDHEIM IS ON THE WATCHLIST -- A CONCESSION TO HYSTERICAL MEDIA?", AND SUMMARIZES:

"AN AMERICAN SECRET SERVICE OFFICIAL FOUND: KURT WALDHEIM WAS NOT THE VICTIM OF A JEWISH COVER-UP, BUT AN EASY VICTIM FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN, SACRIFICED ON THE ALTAR OF NAZI-HYSTERICAL MEDIA." THE ARTICLE FOCUSSES ON THE MEDIA'S ROLE IN CONDEMNING WALDHEIM, QUOTING MAPOTHER AS FOLLOWS: "WALDHEIM BECAME A MAJOR MEDIA EVENT, AND THE BIG PAPERS FOUND NO WAY OUT OF THIS WHEN THE ALLEGATIONS COLLAPSED."

"IS WALDHEIM THE VICTIM OF U.S. DOMESTIC INTRIGUES?" "DIE PRESSE" ASKS. "SIMON WIESENTHAL SEEMS TO LEAN TOWARD THIS THESIS. BUT HE, TOO, LACKS A RECIPE FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT."

"DER STANDARD" COVERS SIMON WIESENTHAL'S STATEMENT THAT IN HIS OPINION, THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR WAS STARTED IN AUSTRIA, QUOTING WIESENTHAL AS SAYING THAT THOSE WHO BEGAN THIS WERE PEOPLE WHO COULD NOT IMAGINE A NON-SOCIALIST BECOMING FEDERAL PRESIDENT. "DER STANDARD" ALSO REPORTS WIESENTHAL'S OPINION THAT THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN WALDHEIM'S ELECTION AND THE RISE OF THE FPO SOON AFTER. (AS REPORTED PARA 6.)

FOR "KURIER," MAPOTHER'S BOOK DOES NOT CONTAIN GREAT REVELATIONS:

"THE HISTORICAL FACTS ARE CLEAR TO ANYONE WHO TRIED TO BE FAIR. THE DEBATE ABOUT KURT WALDHEIM'S ROLE IN WORLD WAR II WAS INITIATED BY SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIALS OUT OF LOW MOTIVES -- THE OVP CANDIDATE WAS TO BE PREVENTED FROM WINNING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. THEN, THE "CAMPAIGN"

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SLIPPED OUT OF ITS INITIATORS' HANDS. AND WALDHEIM GREATLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE SCANDAL BY INSUFFICIENTLY RENDERING HIS YEARS DURING THE WAR AND BY GIVING ANSWERS THAT WERE EASILY MISUNDERSTOOD. HIS FORMULATION THAT IN THE WEHRMACHT, HE HAD "ONLY DONE HIS DUTY" PROFOUNDLY SHOOK THE DOCTRINES ON WHICH THE SECOND REPUBLIC IS FOUNDED. WITHOUT KNOWING IT, **KURT WALDHEIM** TRIGGERED A DEBATE ON "COMING TO TERMS WITH THE PAST" THAT WAS BOTH INSTRUCTIVE AND NECESSARY."

COMMENT:

8. MAPOTHER'S BOOK HAS STIRRED REMINESCENCES OF THE TEN-YEAR-OLD DEBATE ON THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR. THE MASS-TABLOID "NEUE KRÖNEN ZEITUNG," ONCE AMONG THE STAUNCHEST WALDHEIM SUPPORTERS, IS RUNNING A SERIES OF EXCERPTS FROM MAPOTHER'S BOOK THIS WEEK. HOWEVER, THE SERIES DOES NOT EXCLUSIVELY FOCUS ON THE WALDHEIM PARTS OF THE BOOK, BUT ALSO HAS EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF OTHER RELATED ISSUES, FOR EXAMPLE THE DEMJANJUK CASE. ON WALDHEIM AND THE WATCHLIST DECISION, THE BOOK REVEALS NO NEW FACTS -- AND FOR THAT REASON, MAY HAVE A RELATIVELY SHORT SHELF-LIFE.

END REPORT.

CARRINGTON, ACTING

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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