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TEXT
SUBJECT: AUSTRIA MEDIA REACTION

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF COMMENTARIES PUBLISHED AUGUST
4:

1. INDEPENDENT DAILY "DIE PRESSE", FRONT PAGE
COMMENTARY BY CHIEF EDITOR THOMAS CHORHERR:

"BUT WE STILL REMAIN FRIENDS"

THROUGH MR. SHER'S UNABASHED STATEMENT THAT AN
INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN CARRIED ON AGAINST HERBERT VON
KARAJAN, WHICH MIGHT EVENTUALLY HAVE PUT HIM ON THE
OMINOUS WATCH LIST -- IF HE HADN'T DIED BEFORE THIS
COULD HAPPEN -- THROUGH THIS STATEMENT WASHINGTON HAS

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DEMONSTRATED IMPRESSIVELY TO EVERYONE WHAT SORT OF SIGNIFICANCE THIS WATCH LIST AND THE INVESTIGATIONS IN THIS CONTEXT HAVE: NONE AT ALL. HOWEVER, THE INVESTIGATIONS AGAINST ALLEGED EASTERN SPY FELIX BLOCH APPEAR EVEN MORE AMATEURISH. THE QUESTIONAIRES WHICH THE FBI SENT TO A NUMBER OF AUSTRIAN POLITICIAN HAVE AN AWKWARD SIMILARITY WITH THOSE ONE HAD TO ANSWER IN BYGONE TIMES IF ONE WANTED TO GO TO THE U.S. "DID YOU KNOW IF FELIX BLOCH COLLECTED STAMPS, AND IF SO, WHICH ONES?" -- THIS IS NOT A JOKE, BUT A QUESTION MEANT SERIOUSLY, AT LEAST BY THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES. THE FACT THAT THE AFFAIR INVOLVING THE FORMER SECOND-RANKING OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN VIENNA MAY TURN OUT THE GREATEST FLOP OF THIS DECADE IS NOW CLEAR TO WASHINGTON AS WELL...

BUT THE AMERICANS CAN BE SURE THAT WE WILL REMAIN FRIENDS DESPITE ALL THAT. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING, BUT WE FORGIVE IT.

2. MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID "NEUE KRONENZEITUNG", P. 2 COMMENTARY BY COLUMNIST RICHARD NIMMERRICHTER:

IF ONE WANTED TO BE A BIT OF A CYNIC, AND, WHAT'S MORE, DISRESPECTFUL, ONE MIGHT SAY THAT KARAJAN WAS REALLY LUCKY. THE WORLD-FAMOUS CONDUCTOR DIED JUST IN TIME TO AVOID A FATE SIMILAR TO THAT OF AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT WALDHEIM, I.E., TO PREVENT THE AMERICANS FROM PUTTING HIM ON THAT ODD WATCH LIST OF THEIRS...

EVERYTHING THAT IS BEING SAID AGAINST KARAJAN IN THE U.S. NOW WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE SOME 20, 30 YEARS AGO. BUT THROUGH ALL THIS TIME, KARAJAN WAS COURTED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AMERICA BEING NO EXCEPTION...

WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHY KARAJAN WAS TO BE PUT ON THE WATCH LIST AS LATE AS 1989; WHY WASN'T THE U.S. BAN PUT ON HIM MUCH EARLIER, WHEN THE WOUNDS INFLICTED BY THE HITLER REGIME WERE STILL FRESH; AND WHY, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE REAL AND HIGH-RANKING NAZIS, SUCH AS **KLAUS BARBIE**, THE BUTCHER OF LYON, OR WERNHER VON BRAUN, WHO WAS AN UNDOUBTED SS MAN, HIRED BY THE AMERICANS FOR THEIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.

THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE. THE REASON WAS THAT KARAJAN'S HIGHLY ESTEEMED INTERPRETATION OF BRUCKNER'S EIGHTH WAS NOT CAPABLE OF BRINGING DOWN ANY RUSSIONS BOMBERS OR SINKING RUSSIAN SUBMARINES -- WHEREAS THIS KIND OF ASSISTANCE COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED FROM HITLER'S MINIONS AND LATER AMERICAN GUEST STARS, SUCH AS BARBIE OR WERNHER VON BRAUN... ZEHNER, ACTING

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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