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DIRECTOR 947356

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STAFF 011810Z DIRECTOR 947356
TO: IMMEDIATE

FROM: EUR/SA/A

SUBJECT: WNINTEL - REPRINT OF ARTICLE ON WALDHEIM

1. FOLLOWING IS A REPRINT OF AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE 30 NOV 89 WASHINGTON POST. IT IS A REUTER PRESS RELEASE WRITTEN BY ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN. THE ARTICLE IS QUOTED IN ITS ENTIRETY FOR [] INFORMATION.

2. THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HAS HAD IN ITS POSSESSION SINCE ITS CREATION 42 YEARS AGO A DOCUMENT THAT COULD HAVE KEPT KURT WALDHEIM FROM BEING NAMED UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL, A LEADING JEWISH GROUP SAID TODAY.

THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS RELEASED A COPY OF THE DOCUMENT. THE CIA WITHHELD IMMEDIATE COMMENT, BUT A U.S. GOVERNMENT SOURCE INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED ITS AUTHENTICITY.

THE DOCUMENT IS A REPORT OF A BRITISH ARMY INTERROGATION OF A CAPTURED GERMAN SOLDIER WHO NAMED WALDHEIM AS A GERMAN ARMY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN THE BALKANS, A FACT ABOUT THE CURRENT AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT THAT WAS KEPT SECRET UNTIL 1986.

THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, WHICH HAS BEEN PROBING WALDHEIM'S WARTIME PAST FOR THREE YEARS, SAID IT HAD OBTAINED THE DOCUMENT FROM EUROPEAN SOURCES AFTER BEING REPEATEDLY REBUFFED BY THE CIA.

A CIA SPOKESMAN SAID THE AGENCY COULD MAKE NO DEFINITIVE COMMENT ON THE DOCUMENT. "IT WILL TAKE TIME TO INVESTIGATE THIS," SAID SPOKESMAN MARK MANSFIELD.

BUT A U.S. GOVERNMENT SOURCE, WHO ASKED NOT BE IDENTIFIED, INDEPENDENTLY CONFIRMED THAT THE DOCUMENT WAS GENUINE AND HAD BEEN IN THE CIA'S FILES.

SCHOLARS AND EXPERTS SAID THAT IF WALDHEIM'S ROLE AS THE DEPUTY TO THE INTELLIGENCE CHIEF IN ARMY GROUP E HAD BEEN A MATTER OF PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE, HE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ELECTED U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL IN 1971 OR REELECTED FOUR YEARS LATER.

WHEN HE RAN FOR THE POST, WALDHEIM SAID THAT HIS GERMAN ARMY SERVICE WAS CUT SHORT BY A LEG WOUND IN 1941 ON THE EASTERN FRONT AND THAT HE SPENT THE REST OF THE WAR AS A LAW STUDENT IN VIENNA.

ARMY GROUP E HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN SOME OF THE MOST SAVAGE CAMPAIGNS OF THE WAR, AND ITS COMMANDER WAS EXECUTED IN YUGOSLAVIA AS A WAR CRIMINAL IN 1947.

SINCE HIS WARTIME ROLE WAS REVEALED, WALDHEIM HAS STEADFASTLY DENIED ANY WRONGDOING OR ANY PARTICIPATION IN WAR CRIMES.

ROBERT HERZSTEIN, A PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA WHO HAS EXTENSIVELY PROBED THE WALDHEIM CASE, SAID THE CIA'S FAILURE TO REVEAL THE EXISTENCE OF THE DOCUMENT WAS EITHER DUE TO "INCOMPETENCE OR A PATTERN OF PROTECTION."

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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HERZSTEIN, AUTHOR OF THE NEW BOOK, "WALDHEIM: THE MISSING YEARS," ADDED, "I HAVE TO ASSUME THERE WAS A PATTERN OF PROTECTION. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT WALDHEIM COULD HAVE BEEN AN AGENT OF INFLUENCE OR A SOURCE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT KGB INFLUENCE IN THE U.N. SECRETARIAT."

THE CIA IN 1980 TOLD REP. STEPHEN J. SOLARZ (D-N.Y.), "WE HAVE NO INTELLIGENCE REPORTING IN DETAIL ON WALDHEIM'S MILITARY SERVICE." IT THEN QUOTED FROM "OPEN SOURCE MATERIALS" IT HAD FOUND THAT WALDHEIM WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMY IN 1941 AND RETURNED TO STUDY LAW IN VIENNA.

THE CIA LETTER TO SOLARZ MADE NO MENTION OF THE APRIL 26, 1945, DOCUMENT, WHICH IDENTIFIED WALDHEIM BY NAME AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AS A GERMAN ARMY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

THE DOCUMENT SAID WALDHEIM'S DUTIES INCLUDED LIAISON WITH THE GFP, THE GERMAN ARMY SECRET MILITARY FIELD POLICE, WHICH QUESTIONED SUSPECTED PARTISANS AND RAN JAILS.

THE DOCUMENT WAS GIVEN BY BRITISH INTELLIGENCE TO THE OSS, THE CIA'S PREDESSOR. WHEN THE CIA WAS CREATED IN 1947, IT TOOK POSSESSION OF OSS FILES.

A WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS SPOKESMAN SAID THE DOCUMENT "PROVES THE CIA WAS AWARE OF WALDHEIM'S HIDDEN PAST EVEN AS IT WAS TELLING A U.S. CONGRESSMAN THAT WALDHEIM WAS A CIVILIAN LAW STUDENT IN VIENNA.

2. NO FILE DECI. OADR DRV HUM 4-82.>

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