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FOR P/P, P/M, P/FN, P/FW, EU-SPRINGER, VOA/BX

STATE FOR EUR/CE, ALSO PASS FOR AMBASSADOR LAUDER

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA MEDIA REACTION

1. AUSTRO-AMERICAN RELATIONS: UNDER THE PAGE 3 HEADLINE "WITHOUT AMERICA?," VIENNA'S INDEPENDENT, MASS-CIRCULATION DAILY "KURIER" ON JUNE 21 CARRIED THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL BY FOREIGN EDITOR HEINZ NUSSBAUMER:

HE SEES HIS ROLE AS A "BRIDGEBUILDER," THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, RONALD LAUDER, SAID THE OTHER DAY. AND HE ADDED THAT HE REGARDS THE RELATIONS BETWEEN AMERICA AND AUSTRIA AS "FRIENDLY AND EXCELLENT."

THAT'S GOOD BECAUSE, IN HIS HOME COUNTRY, UNPLEASANT VOICES ARE STILL HEARD IN CONNECTION WITH WALDHEIM. MORE THAN 100 CONGRESSMEN HAVE DEMANDED THAT AMERICA'S SEAT

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REMAIN VACANT WHEN WALDHEIM IS SWORN IN ON JULY 8. THIS IS SO ALTHOUGH, EVEN IN THE UNITED STATES, THEY KNOW BY NOW THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE SO FAR IN SUPPORT OF THE CHARGES AGAINST THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT WHICH WOULD MAKE SUCH A DRAMATIC STEP UNDERSTANDABLE. REGARDLESS OF ANY CRITICISM THAT CAN BE LEVELED AT **KURT WALDHEIM**: NEITHER A WAR CRIMINAL NOR A NAZI IS STEPPING TO THE TOP OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA.

WE KNOW ABOUT RONALD LAUDER THAT, FORTUNATELY, HE HAS CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE U.S. PRESIDENT AND WITH THE PRESIDENT'S CLOSEST ASSISTANTS. AND, AS A DIPLOMAT WHO IN HIS OWN WORDS HERE IN VIENNA HAS PASSED "THE MOST WONDERFUL WEEKS I CAN REMEMBER," HE WILL SURELY BE AWARE OF THE EDUCATIONAL WORK THE AUSTRIANS EXPECT HIM TO DO IN WASHINGTON PRECISELY AT THE PRESENT TIME. AS A "BRIDGEBUILDER," HE WILL HAVE TO REPORT AT THE POWER CENTER OF THE USA

- THAT THE AUSTRIANS - NOT JUST THE 54 PERCENT WHO HAVE VOTED FOR WALDHEIM - WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND IT AT ALL IF THE GREAT DEMOCRACY AMERICA OF ALL COUNTRIES DID NOT ACCEPT THE RESULT OF A DEMOCRATIC ELECTION AMONG FRIENDS. THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, (PETER) JANKOWITSCH, HAS ALREADY STARTED A "LARGE-SCALE OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE DEFAMATION OF AUSTRIA," POINTING OUT

- THAT IT WOULD BE UNFAIR IF AUSTRIA FELL A VICTIM TO A CAMPAIGN WHICH SEEMS TO BE MORE CONNECTED WITH THE U.S. CAMPAIGN PRIOR TO THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS IN FALL THAN WITH THE CAMPAIGN AFTER THE ELECTION IN AUSTRIA;

- THAT THE AUSTRIANS WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND IT AT ALL IF AMERICA OF ALL THE COUNTRIES WERE TO PUSH US OPTICALLY IN THE DIRECTION OF THE EAST, THERE BEING NO DOUBT THAT ALL THE COMMUNIST DIPLOMATS WILL COME TO THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION;

- THAT, IN THIS COUNTRY, CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION AT AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE CAUSED. HOW COULD THE CITIZENS EXPLAIN THAT U.S. DIPLOMATS COME TO EVERY CEREMONY WHEN RIGHTIST OR LEFTIST DICTATORS ARE ASSUMING THEIR OFFICE, BUT DO NOT APPEAR WHEN THERE IS A CHANGE OF THE PRESIDENT IN AUSTRIA?

IN ANY CASE AND THANK GOD, THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR KNOWS THAT HIS FELLOW CITIZENS, WHO HAVE FRIVOLOUSLY FORMULATED THEIR JUDGEMENTS ON OTHER PEOPLE AND OTHER COUNTRIES, COULD RUIN MUCH MORE THAN JUST A CEREMONIAL ACT BY A DEMONSTRATIVE GESTURE (IN KEEPING AWAY FROM WALDHEIM'S INAUGURATION) ON JULY 8." KOHL  
END OF MESSAGE

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