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E.O. 12356: N/A
SUBJECT: GERMAN MEDIA REACTION REPORT
FOLLOWING IS A REVIEW OF GERMAN MEDIA OF OCTOBER 13, 1987
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 - A. TAX REFORM

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I. LEAD STORIES

A. TAX REFORM

1. INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH, SATURDAY, CARRIED A FACTUAL NEWS REPORT BY KLAUS HENNEMANN, HEADLINED: "COALITION DECIDES TO TAX INTEREST RATES ON SAVINGS AND INSURANCE EARNINGS."

"THE BONN GOVERNMENT WANTS TO INTRODUCE A 10 PERCENT WITHHOLDING TAX ON INVESTMENT EARNINGS TO PARTIALLY FINANCE THE PLANNED TAX REFORM SCHEDULED FOR 1990. THE WITHHOLDING TAX IS TO BE DIRECTLY REMITTED BY THE BANKS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES TO THE TAX OFFICES. DURING THEIR FIRST MEETING ON THE TAX REFORM THE COALITION PARTNERS AGREED ON THESE MEASURES, CAUSING A SHARP DECLINE OF FRG STOCKS AND BONDS. ACCORDING TO WELL-INFORMED SOURCES, AN AGREEMENT ON MORE THAN HALF THE NECESSARY AMOUNT OF 19 BILLION D-MARK NEEDED FOR THE FINANCING OF THE REFORM WAS ACHIEVED BY CUTTING TAX SUBSIDIES. AN INCREASE IN THE VALUE ADDED TAX WAS BASICALLY RULED OUT.

"AFTER EXPERT TALKS WHICH FINANCE MINISTER GERHARD STOLTENBERG WILL HAVE WITH HIS MINISTRY'S TAX EXPERTS AND WITH THE TAX SPOKESMEN OF THE COALITION PARTIES ON FRIDAY, THE COALITION TALKS ARE TO BE CONTINUED ON SATURDAY AND NEXT THURSDAY.... THE MEETING ON THURSDAY IS SUPPOSED TO FINALIZE THE DETAILS OF THE REFORM. ON SATURDAY NIGHT, CHANCELLOR KOHL WANTS TO INFORM THE STATE PREMIERS OF THE CDU-RULED STATES ON THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS ACHIEVED SO FAR. ON THURSDAY, KOHL WANTS TO INFORM THE CDU BUNDESTAG GROUP, WHICH WILL CONVENE IN WEST BERLIN, ON THE DETAILS OF THE FINANCIAL PACKAGE. THE LACK OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY AT LEAST SHOWED THE INTENTION OF CDU, CSU AND FDP TO FINANCE THE 19 BILLION D-MARK IN TAX REDISTRIBUTIONS BY REDUCING TAX SUBSIDIES, BUT IN NO CASE BY AN INCREASE IN THE VAT. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE BONN GOVERNMENT ALSO STATED THAT THERE WILL NOT BE AN INCREASE IN THE MINERAL-OIL OR TOBACCO TAX. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THIS TOPIC HAD NOT PLAYED ANY ROLE IN THE TALKS SO FAR. A RISE OF THESE TAXES COULD AT THE EARLIEST APPEAR ON THE AGENDA IF THE EC WERE TO BE IN

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DIRE STRAITS...."

2. INDEPENDENT GENERAL-ANZEIGER OF BONN, SATURDAY, CARRIED A FACTUAL NEWS REPORT UNDER THE HEADLINE: "PLAN ON WITHHOLDING TAX CAUSES SHARP PLUNGE OF STOCKS AND BONDS."

"THE BONN GOVERNMENT PLANS TO PUT A LIMIT ON EXPENSES WHICH CAN BE PRESENTED TO THE TAX OFFICE. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE PRIVATE USE OF COMPANY CARS SHOULD ALSO BE LIMITED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE REDUCTION OF SUBSIDIES. BEFORE THE COALITION ROUND CAME TOGETHER FOR THE FINAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, IT COULD NO LONGER BE EXCLUDED THAT A SERIES OF TAX RELIEFS WOULD BE COMBINED. YESTERDAY IT WAS ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ALL EARNINGS ON INTEREST RATES WOULD BE TAXED WITH A TEN PERCENT CAPITAL GAINS TAX. THE STOCKS AND BONDS PLUMMETED AFTER THOSE PLANS BECAME KNOWN...."

"ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE COALITION PARTIES WILL ALSO DISCUSS PLANS TO LIMIT THE USE OF COMPANY CARS TO MAKE MORE SAVINGS. IN THIS CASE THE OWNER OF COMPANY CARS WILL HAVE TO BE CHARGED WITH A 35 PERCENT OWNER-OPERATOR AMOUNT. THIS SHOULD LEAD TO AN ADDITIONAL SURPLUS OF 100 MILLION D-MARK PER YEAR...."

B. DOBRYNIN IN BONN

1. INDEPENDENT GENERAL-ANZEIGER OF BONN, SATURDAY, CARRIED NEWS REPORT BY WOLF BELL UNDER THE HEADLINE: "GORBACHEV TO MEET KOHL SOON."

"IN A DETAILED LETTER SOVIET GENERAL-SECRETARY GORBACHEV DECLARED HIS WILLINGNESS TO MEET CHANCELLOR KOHL 'IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.' THE SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ANATOLI DOBRYNIN, WHO HAS BEEN IN THE FRG FOR A SIX-DAY VISIT, HANDED OVER THE LETTER TO CHANCELLOR KOHL BEFORE THEY STARTED A LONG EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ON THE MOST RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL TOPICS."

"ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN FRIEDHELM OST, FOREIGN MINISTER HANS DIETRICH GENSCHER AND HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE WILL TALK ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE VISIT DURING THEIR MEETING, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR THIS FALL. CHANCELLOR KOHL HAD INVITED MIKHAIL GORBACHEV SOME TIME AGO. RECENTLY KOHL PROPOSED EARLY SPRING OF 1988 FOR A MEETING. AT THAT TIME KOHL WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO SPEAK IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL."

"KOHL AND DOBRYNIN TALKED FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS 'VERY OPENLY AND IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE' ON THE STATE AND THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND ON ALL AREAS OF FRG-SOVIET RELATIONS. THEY BASED THEIR DISCUSSION ON THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE SOVIET POSITION WHICH WAS OUTLINED IN GORBACHEV'S LETTER. THE LETTER PRAISED AGAIN THE FRG SCRAPPING OF THE PERSHING 1A MISSILES AS AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE U.S.-SOVIET PRINCIPAL AGREEMENT ON THE REDUCTION OF INF...."

2. CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT OF BONN, TUESDAY, CARRIED A FACTUAL NEWS REPORT BY BERNT CONRAD UNDER THE HEADLINE: "WILL THERE BE A BAN ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN 1988?"

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"YESTERDAY, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND THE MEMBER OF THE SOVIET CENTRAL COMMITTEE ANATOLI DOBRYNIN AGREED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT IN 1988 ON THE BAN ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS. BOTH POLITICIANS EXPRESSED THEIR OPINIONS THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON CONVENTIONAL STABILITY IN EUROPE HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT WITH GREATER
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<<<<< SECTION 3 >>>>

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INTENSITY. GENSCHER EMPHASIZED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN INF AGREEMENT AND STRESSED THE BONN GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN A 50-PERCENT CUT OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS AND IN NEGOTIATIONS ON SHORT-RANGE MISSILES. DURING A MEETING WITH NORTH-RHINE WESTPHALIAN STATE PREMIER JOHANNES RAU, DOBRYNIN SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS JUST RESTRUCTURING ITS ECONOMY ON A LONG TERM BASIS. DOUBTS WHETHER 'THE RUSSIANS MIGHT REVERSE THIS COURSE ARE UNFOUNDED,' DOBRYNIN SAID."

C. UWE BARSCHEL

1. CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT OF BONN CARRIED A FACTUAL NEWS REPORT, TUESDAY, HEADLINED: "DID BARSCHEL DIE OF HEART ATTACK? - HIS BROTHER TALKS OF MURDER."

"ONE DAY AFTER FORMER SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN STATE PREMIER UWE BARSCHEL WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS GENEVA HOTEL ROOM, NUMEROUS INCONSISTENCIES ON THE REASONS OF HIS DEATH REMAIN. THE PRELIMINARY AUTOPSY REPORT DID NOT CLARIFY THE CASE. TOXICOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL ANALYSES ARE SUPPOSED TO LAST FOR SEVERAL MORE DAYS. THE INVESTIGATIONS SO FAR HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT BARSCHEL, WHO SUFFERED FROM A PREVIOUS HEART ATTACK, MIGHT HAVE DIED OF HEART FAILURE.

"THE RESPONSIBLE JUDGE, CLAUDE-NICOLE NARDIN, DID NOT WANT TO DENY NOR CONFIRM THIS HEART FAILURE DIAGNOSIS. BUT SHE EXCLUDED A DEATH CAUSED BY DROWNING, ALTHOUGH BARSCHEL WAS FOUND IN THE FILLED BATHTUB OF HIS HOTEL ROOM. CONTRADICTORY INFORMATION CIRCULATED ON HOW BARSCHEL HAD BEEN FOUND. ACCORDING TO JUDGE NARDIN, BARSCHEL SAT IN HIS BATHTUB WITH HIS HEAD STICKING OUT, AND HE WAS FULLY CLOTHED APART FROM HIS SHOES. ACCORDING TO DIFFERENT INFORMATION, BARSCHEL WAS LYING IN HIS BATHTUB. THE PRELIMINARY AUTOPSY REPORT SAYS THAT HE DIED AROUND ELEVEN O'CLOCK ON SUNDAY MORNING. THE SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN INTERIOR MINISTRY DISSEMINATED YESTERDAY THE INFORMATION THAT 'ONE CAN ASSUME A NATURAL DEATH CAUSED BY A HEART ATTACK. A USE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED. IT IS CLEAR THAT DR. BARSCHEL WAS NOT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ANY DRUGS OR ALCOHOL.' SHORTLY AFTER BARSCHEL'S BODY HAD BEEN FOUND IT WAS SAID THAT THE FORMER STATE PREMIER HAD SHOT

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HIMSELF...."

2. INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH, TUESDAY, CARRIED AN AP NEWS REPORT, HEADLINED: "BARSCHHEL OBVIOUSLY DIED OF HEART FAILURE."

"UWE BARSCHHEL, WHO RESIGNED FROM HIS POSITION AS SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN STATE PREMIER, HAS OBVIOUSLY SUFFERED FROM HEART FAILURE. ONE DAY AFTER HE WAS FOUND DEAD IN THE BATHTUB IN HIS HOTEL ROOM IN GENEVA, THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, MAKING REFERENCE TO AN INTERIM REPORT BY THE GENEVA POLICE, ANNOUNCED THAT BARSCHHEL HAD A WEAK HEART. 'ONE CAN ASSUME A NATURAL DEATH CAUSED BY A HEART ATTACK.' THE JUDGE IN CHARGE, NICOLE-CLAUDE NARDIN, HOWEVER, SAID THAT THE EXACT CAUSE OF HIS DEATH CAN ONLY BE CONFIRMED IN SEVERAL DAYS. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ARD TV, EIKE BARSCHHEL, UWE BARSCHHEL'S BROTHER, SAID THAT HE CAN HARDLY IMAGINE HIS BROTHER DYING A NATURAL DEATH. HE ALSO RULED OUT SUICIDE.

"ASKED IF HE THOUGHT HIS BROTHER HAD BEEN MURDERED, HE ANSWERED: 'YES, YOU ARE RIGHT.' HE CALLED IT 'ABSURD' TO TALK ABOUT A NATURAL DEATH IN VIEW OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES. HE WAS FOUND LYING FULLY CLOTHED IN THE BATHTUB.... HE SAID THAT HIS BROTHER HAD TALKED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS OF BEING THE VICTIM OF A CONSPIRACY. EIKE BARSCHHEL SAID: 'MY BROTHER WAS CONVINCED THAT THERE WAS END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

<<<< SECTION 4 >>>>

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A CONSPIRACY AGAINST HIM. HE WAS CONVINCED OF IT FOR A LONG TIME.' HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS BROTHER THOUGHT HE HAD FOUND 'THE FIRST CONCRETE FACT IN THE WHOLE PUZZLE.'..."

II. OTHER NEWS AND COMMENTARY

D. PERSIAN GULF

1. CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT OF BONN, SATURDAY, CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT BY DETLEV AHLERS UNDER THE HEADLINE "THREE SPEEDBOATS."

"AMERICA HAS NO INTEREST IN ESCALATING THE CONFLICT IN THE GULF. BUT IT WANTS TO SHOW THE IRANIAN FORCES THAT IT TAKES ITS COMMITMENT SERIOUSLY...."

2. LEFT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU, SATURDAY, CARRIED AN EDITORIAL COMMENT BY JOERG RECKMANN UNDER THE HEADLINE "FAILURE IN THE GULF."

"THE LONGER THE U.S. COMMITMENT IN THE GULF LASTS, THE MORE AMBIGUOUS AMERICA'S GOALS BECOME.... THE TANKER WAR, WHICH THE U.S. WANTED TO BRING TO AN END, IS INTENSIFYING..... THE SOVIET UNION'S INFLUENCE IN THIS REGION, WHICH THE U.S. WANTED TO REDUCE, IS INCREASING.... AND THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR, WHICH AMERICA WANTED TO BRING TO AN END, CONTINUES...."

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"THE U.S. HAS MANAGED TO ACHIEVE JUST THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT IT HAD ORIGINALLY PROCLAIMED...."

3. INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, SATURDAY, CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT BY JOACHIM WORTHMANN UNDER THE HEADLINE "DANGER IN THE GULF."

"AFTER THE RECENT MILITARY CONFLICT IN THE GULF, THE AYATOLLAHS MUST RETALIATE IF THEY DO NOT WANT TO BE CONSIDERED PAPER TIGERS. BUT SUCH A REACTION COULD LEAD...TO A DANGEROUS ESCALATION WHICH COULD GET OUT OF CONTROL...."

"IF IRAN OPENLY ATTACKS THE U.S., THEN THE U.S. HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO DECLARE WAR ON IRAN.... SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE UNPREDICTABLE CONSEQUENCES. HOW LONG WOULD THE SOVIET UNION STAY OUT OF SUCH A MILITARY CONFRONTATION? IT IS CERTAIN THAT MOSCOW HAS NO INTEREST IN TAKING SIDE WITH EITHER ONE OF THE PARTIES.... AND THE SOVIET UNION AND THE U.S. BOTH SHY AWAY FROM A DIRECT MILITARY CONFRONTATION.

..."

4. PRO-CDU RHEINISCHE POST OF DUESSELDORF, SATURDAY, CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT BY GUENTER DE THIER UNDER THE HEADLINE "CRISIS INTENSIFIED."

"THE RECENT SHOWDOWN IN THE GULF HAS DRAMATICALLY INCREASED THE DANGER OF AN ALL-OUT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND IRAN..... THERE IS LIKELY TO BE AN INCREASE IN TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST AMERICANS...."

5. CONSERVATIVE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, MONDAY, CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT BY WOLFGANG GUENTHER LERCH UNDER THE HEADLINE "ESCORT AND PRESSURE."

"NO MATTER WHERE THE STINGER MISSILES...REALLY CAME FROM, THE WEST IS INCREASINGLY CONFRONTED BY MISSILES IT HAS DELIVERED TO THAT REGION...."

6. INDEPENDENT WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE OF ESSEN, MONDAY, CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT BY RAINER BONHORST UNDER THE HEADLINE "STINGER IN THE GULF."
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<<<<< SECTION 5 >>>>

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"WHAT MUST AN AMERICAN SOLDIER IN THE GULF FEEL, WHEN HE IS TOLD THAT HIS IRANIAN COUNTERPART IS EQUIPPED WITH THE U.S. MADE STINGER MISSILE?...."

7. LEFT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU, TUESDAY, CARRIED A NEWS REPORT WITH COMMENT BY KURT KISTER UNDER THE HEADLINE "MISSILES FIND THEIR OWN TARGET: MONEY."

"THE CONFUSION ABOUT THE STINGER MISSILES REFLECTS A DEVELOPMENT WHICH...CAN BE OBSERVED IN OTHER REGIONAL CRISIS AREAS: THE BIG POWERS HAVE LOST CONTROL OF INTERNATIONAL ARMS DEALS. IT ALMOST LOOKS AS IF THE ARMS TRADE IS ONE OF THE FEW REALLY FREE MARKETS IN THE

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WORLD...."

E. FRG POLL ON GORBACHEV

1. INDEPENDENT GENERAL-ANZEIGER OF BONN, TODAY, CARRIED A DPA NEWS REPORT UNDER THE HEADLINE "TRUST IN GORBACHEV."

"WEST GERMAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION HAVE BECOME MUCH MORE POSITIVE SINCE MIKHAIL GORBACHEV BECAME SOVIET GENERAL SECRETARY. THIS IS THE RESULT OF A REPRESENTATIVE OPINION POLL (1,000 POLLED) CONDUCTED IN MID-SEPTEMBER BY THE ELECTORIAL RESEARCH GROUP, AND COMMISSIONED BY ZDF TV.

"SEVENTY-SIX PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED AGREED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT GORBACHEV IS A MAN TO BE TRUSTED, COMPARED TO 52 PERCENT IN MAY 1987."

2. INDEPENDENT/CONSERVATIVE BERLINER MORGENPOST, TODAY, CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT UNDER THE HEADLINE "MIKHAIL GORBACHEV IS RIDING A WAVE OF POPULARITY AMONG GERMAN MEDIA RESEARCHERS, ACHIEVING FANTASTIC RESULTS.... THE TRUST PLACED IN HIM IS THE RESULT OF A GROSS MISTAKEN ASSESSMENT OF HIS POLITICIES.

"THE POSITIVE RESULTS FOR GORBACHEV ARE ACCOMPANIED BY NEGATIVE RESULTS FOR U.S. PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN. IN DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS, GORBACHEV IS ACCORDED THE LAUREL WREATH, EVEN THOUGH RONALD REAGAN DESERVES THE CREDIT FOR ANY PROGRESS THAT MAY BE MADE.

"THE FACT THAT THINGS HAVE BEEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN TO SUCH AN EXTENT COMPELS ONE TO CONCLUDE THAT THE WESTERN MEDIA ARE NOT UP TO THE SUBTLETIES OF THE ART OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA. NOT LEAST THE PUBLIC TELEVISION SECTOR, WITH ITS GREAT POWERS OF SUGGESTION, MUST ASK ITSELF WHETHER IT ALWAYS DOES JUSTICE TO THE NEED FOR OBJECTIVITY."

F. THE USSR IN THE U.S. MEDIA

LEFT-WING DIE TAGESZEITUNG OF WEST BERLIN, TUESDAY, CARRIED A NEWS REPORT BY TINA GLITZ, HEADLINED: "U.S. FEAR OF GORBACHEV'S NEW PEACABLENESS."

"ALTHOUGH U.S. PUBLICATIONS AND BROADCASTS STRESS DIFFERENT ASPECTS, THEY INTERPRET GORBACHEV AND GLASNOST IN THE SAME IDEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK WHICH CHARACTERIZES THE U.S. PICTURE OF THE SOVIET UNION. THE RESULT IS THAT U.S. ANTICOMMUNISM CAN EVEN BE FOMENTED BY SOVIET REFORMS....

"THE DAILY PRESS WRITES ABOUT GLASNOST, BUT NOT 'PERESTROIJKA,' THE RESTRUCTURING OF SOCIETY. ITS PICTURE OF THE SOVIET UNION AS A RIGID STALINIST MONOLITH...MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR AMERICANS TO GET A NORMAL PICTURE OF THE SOVIET UNION. REPORTS ON 'PERESTROIKA' ARE CHARACTERIZED BY SUCH PREJUDICES. A
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<<<< SECTION 6 >>>>

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MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE SOCIETY INTRODUCED BY GORBACHEV WOULD MEAN THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD HAVE TO GIVE UP THEIR SIMPLE PERCEPTIONS IN FAVOR OF A MORE DIFFERENTIATED VIEW OF THE SOVIET UNION....

"BUT INSTEAD OF EXPLAINING THE SOVIET UNDERSTANDING OF DEMOCRACY, (U.S.) JOURNALISTS PUT AN AMERICAN LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC DEFINITION OVER THE TERM GLASNOST. FOR THEM, GLASNOST MEANS, FIRST AND FOREMOST, MORE FREEDOM OF OPINION AND LESS CENSORSHIP. FOR INSTANCE, THE SOVIET DECISION TO STOP JAMMING THE VOICE OF AMERICA GOT THE SAME APPLAUSE FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE AS THE UPCOMING PUBLICATION OF BORIS PASTERNAK'S DOCTOR ZHIVAGO.

"FOR THE U.S. MEDIA...CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM IN THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GORBACHEV'S REFORMS, IS NOT REGARDED AS A SIGN OF LIBERALIZATION: ONLY IF CRITICISM CONTAINS ELEMENTS OF A REAL OPPOSITION AND IS AT THE SAME TIME TOLERATED, THEN IT IS SEEN AS EVIDENCE FOR GLASNOST....

"IF (THE U.S. MEDIA) DISCUSSES ASPECTS OF THIS RESTRUCTURING, THEY ARE SUBJECT TO THE SAME PERCEPTION. THEY ARE EITHER DESCRIBED AS ATTEMPTS TO ADJUST THE SOVIET UNION TO WESTERN IDEALS, OR THEY DENY RIGHT FROM THE OUTSET THE CHANCE OF SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING, SINCE IT WOULD MEAN THE AMERICANS WOULD LOSE THEIR MOST IMPORTANT YARDSTICK. IF EVIL COMMUNISM DID NOT EXIST, THE AMERICANS WOULD HAVE TO START TO APPLY THIS YARDSTICK TO THEIR OWN IMPERFECT REALITY. A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC IN THE SOVIET UNION WOULD DESTROY ONE OF THE CENTRAL ELEMENTS OF U.S. ANTICOMMUNISM. AND THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS OF THE 'EVIL EMPIRE' WOULD MAKE THE PROBLEMS OF THE U.S. ECONOMY EVEN MORE BLATANT....

"WHILE GORBACHEV'S POSITIVE IMAGE IS INCREASING ABROAD, ROANLD REAGAN'S IMAGE IS DETERIORATING DRAMATICALLY. BECAUSE U.S. ANALYSISTS FEAR, RIGHTLY, THAT THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND DECISIONS IN U.S. DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY HAVE BLURRED THE VIEW OF THE ALLIES AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND COULD LEAD TO A CRISIS OF LEGITIMATION, THEY DOUBT THE LEGIMITACY OF SOVIET REFORMS.... CONSERVATIVE OBSERVERS CLAIM THAT ALL REFORMS AIM AT INCREASING THE POWER OF AN AGGRESSIVE SUPERPOWER TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE U.S....

"GLASNOST CAN BE USED IDEOLOGICALLY. BECAUSE THIS TERM CAN BE PRESSED INTO THE U.S. WAY OF THINKING AND MEASURED BY U.S. STANDARDS, IT CAN BE INTEGRATED WITHIN AN ANTICOMMUNISM WHICH IS EITHER SUBTLE OR BLATANT. IF THE U.S. MEDIA WERE TO DEAL MORE PROFOUNDLY WITH THE STRUCTURAL AND LEGAL CHANGES IN SOVIET SOCIETY, THEY WOULD BE FORCED TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS AND THE SUCESSSES OF THESE REFORM ASPIRATIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION. BUT EXACTLY THIS IS BEING PREVENTED BY THE PREVAILING IDEOLOGICAL PERCEPTION OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE U.S. MEDIA."

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G. CENTRAL AMERICA

1. CONSERVATIVE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, SATURDAY, CARRIED EDITORIAL COMMENT BY GUENTHER NONNENMACHER UNDER THE HEADLINE "CHANGE OF COURSE IN NICARAGUA?"

"THE SANDINISTAS HAVE BEGUN FULFILLING IMPORTANT CONDITIONS OF THE ARIAS PEACE PLAN.... THEY ARE REACTING TO THE WORSENING SITUATION IN NICARAGUA AND ABROAD.

"IF MANAGUA HAD REJECTED THE ARIAS PEACE PLAN, THE END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED

<<<< SECTION 7 >>>>

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CONTRAS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE RECEIVED MORE FUNDS.... THIS SANDINISTAS MAY NOW ACHIEVE AN IMPORTANT GOAL: STEMMING ITS ENORMOUS MILITARY EXPENDITURES. THIS IS DESPERATELY NECESSARY, SINCE NICARAGUA IS FACING ECONOMIC COLLAPSE....

"THE SITUATION OF THE SANDINISTAS HAS WORSENERED INTERNATIONALLY, TOO. MOSOCW HAS MADE UNMISTAKEABLY CLEAR THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT WILLING TO SHORE UP THE ECONOMY OF A SECOND COUNTRY IN THE REGION.... EAST BLOC SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUA HAS DROPPED AS A RESULT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OVERALL EAST-WEST CLIMATE....

"THUS THE NEW POLICIES OF THE SANDINISTA ARE ALSO THE RESULT OF THEIR WISH TO STAY IN POWER. AND THE REGIME CAN AFFORD TO OPEN UP TO A CERTAIN EXTENT: IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, NICARAGUAN SOCIETY HAS BEEN COVERED WITH A NETWORK OF SANDINISTA MASS ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE INFLUENCE EXTENDS RIGHT INTO THE PRIVATE SPHERE.... IN ADDITION, POLITICAL OPPOSITION IS DIVIDED....

"HOW SHOULD THE WEST RESPOND TO THE NEW SANDINISTA POLICIES? IT WOULD BE WRONG TO REDUCE THE PRESSURE ALL TOO RAPIDLY. MANAGUA MUST REALIZE THAT IT WILL NOT RECEIVE WESTERN ECONOMIC AID FOR NOTHING.

"BUT IT IS ALSO WRONG TO IGNORE THE FACT THAT SOMETHING HAS CHANGED IN NICARAGUA DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS. IF THE POLICY OF OPENING CONTINUES, THE WEST, AND EUROPE, SHOULD REACT GENEROUSLY. A MIXTURE OF THE CARROT AND THE STICK IS THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE WHAT THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA WANT: PEACE, MORE RIGHTS, FREEDOM, AND DEMOCRACY."

H. CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN WEST GERMANY

1. LEFT-OF-CENTER NEWS MAGAZINE DER SPIEGEL OF HAMBURG, MONDAY, CARRIED A NEWS REPORT UNDER THE HEADLINE "CHEMICAL WEAPONS: REMOVAL ON SCHEDULE."

"THE BONN GOVERNMENT HAS REJECTED U.S. WISHES TO DESTROY SOME OF THE U.S. CHEMICAL WEAPONS DEPLOYED IN THE FRG ON SITE. BONN INSISTS ON THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF THESE WEAPONS TO THE U.S.....

"UNDER THE UTMOST SECRECY, BUNDESWEHR AND U.S. ARMY EXPERTS ARE NOW PREPARING THE REMOVAL OF THESE DANGEROUS

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WEAPONS TOGETHER WITH THE POLICE OF SEVERAL STATES. PLANS FOR THE REMOVAL HAVE REACHED SUCH A POINT THAT WITHDRAWAL COULD...BEGIN NEXT YEAR....

"HOWEVER, THE U.S. INFORMED BONN THAT...IT WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT SPACE FOR DECONTAMINATION FACILITIES IN THE U.S. UNTIL 1991...."

I. SDI

1. INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH, SATURDAY, CARRIED THE FIRST OF TWO REPORTS ON THE SDI PROJECT BY KURT KISTER UNDER THE HEADLINE "THE DEMYSTIFIED SHIELD - IN THE U.S., SDI DESCRIBED TODAY AS STRENGTHENING DETERRENCE."

"GENERAL JAMES A. ABRAHAMSON, DIRECTOR OF THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE ORGANIZATION (SDO) SINCE 1984, HAS EVERY REASON TO STRESS CLEARLY HIS CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO THE BASIC IDEA OF A STRATEGIC DEFENSE. IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, AN INCREASING NUMBER OF VOICES, NOT ONLY OF AVOWED CRITICS OF THE SDI PLANS, HAVE BEEN RAISED, CLAIMING THAT THE PENTAGON IS GRADUALLY SAYING GOODBYE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VISION OF AN IMPENETRABLE SHIELD AGAINST NUCLEAR MISSILES....

END OF MESSAGE

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<<<<< SECTION 8 >>>>

USIA

"PERISHABLE INFORMATION -- DO NOT SERVICE"

USIA EU, P/M, P/RM, P/FW, P/FN, P/R, P/RWE, P/GR, VOA/PE, P/P,MBFR - STATE EUR/CE;EUR:P;PM;INR/RWE

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: GERMAN MEDIA REACTION REPORT

"AN IMPORTANT IMPULSE FOR THE RECENT DISCUSSION ON SDI WAS PROVIDED BY TWO BROCHURES PUBLISHED BY THE SDIO IN APRIL. ONE WAS A VOLUMINOUS REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF SDI RESEARCH, AND THE OTHER WAS A PAPER DEALING WITH THE TECHNICAL ADVANCES MADE IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

"THE INTERESTING MESSAGE OF BOTH REPORTS, IN POLITICAL TERMS, IS THAT THEY HARDLY REFER AT ALL TO A STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE WHICH WILL MAKE NUCLEAR MISSILES 'POWERLESS AND SUPERFLUOUS' (PRESIDENT REAGAN IN HIS SDI SPEECH, MARCH 1983) IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IN THE FOREWARD TO THE TECHNICAL STUDY, IT MENTIONS THAT THE PURPOSE OF SDI IS TO STRENGTHEN DETERRENCE, SECURE STRATEGIC STABILITY, AND THUS INCREASE THE SECURITY OF THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES....

"WHOEVER TALKS TO SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF THE SDI PROJECT THESE DAYS IN WASHINGTON GAINS THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE REALLY HAS BEEN A DECISIVE CHANGE IN THE PRESENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE.

"ALTHOUGH REAGAN'S SDI SPEECH IS STILL THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR THE WORK OF THE SDIO...ITS INTERPRETATION NO LONGER STICKS TO THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH. WHAT REAGAN PRESENTED AS AN EFFORT TO CHANGE THE NATURE OF THE NUCLEAR STRATEGY BASED ON MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION, IS NOW PRESENTED AS A STRENGTHENING OF DETERRENCE...

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"FOR THE CRITICS OF SDI IN THE U.S., THIS CHANGE OF COURSE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS GRADUALLY BECOMING AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE 'PRESIDENT'S VISION OF AN IMPERMEABLE DEFENSIVE SHIELD WILL NEVER BE ACHIEVED,' (SPURGEON KEENY, DIRECTOR OF THE PRIVATE ARMS CONTROL ASSOCIATION)....

"KEENY BELIEVES THAT STRENGTHENING EXISTING DETERRENCE BY MEANS OF SUCH AN ALTERED SDI PROJECT IS SUPERFLUOUS....

"ONE MEETS WITH CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS ON THE PART OF SDIO OFFICIALS AS FAR AS THE ASSESSMENT OF THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF SDI. 'OUR TASK,' SAID GENERAL ABRAHAMSON, 'CONSISTS OF TO LEAD SOME OF OUR RESEARCH EFFORTS INTO A PHASE OF DEMONSTRATION AND EXAMINATION. A FUTURE ADMINISTRATION CAN MAKE A DECISION ON THE BASIS OF THESE RESULTS.'

"IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IT IS POINTED OUT THAT ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET HAS BEEN PUT INTO SDI, LESS THAN THREE PERCENT. 'THE NEXT PRESIDENT CAN CUT OR INCREASE THE FUNDS. A CERTAIN PART OF THE WORK BEING DONE ON SDI WAS DONE IN THE PAST AND WILL BE DONE IN THE FUTURE BECAUSE IT IS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY FOR THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE.'

"FOR SDI CRITIC KEENY, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE 'REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO BIND THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION WITH ITS PRESSURE FOR A DECISION IN FAVOR OF DEPLOYMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.' HOWEVER, HE BELIEVES THAT OPPOSITION TO SDI...WILL PREVAIL IN THE MEDIUM TERM: 'THERE ARE MANY SIGNS THAT A PRESIDENT WHO IS NOT SO OBSESSED WITH THIS IDEA WILL CUT THE WHOLE THING BACK TO A RESEARCH PROGRAM OVER A LONG, LONG PERIOD WITH A RELATIVELY SMALL BUDGET.'"

J. IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO BONN

INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG CARRIED A DPA/AP NEWS REPORT UNDER THE HEADLINE: "BONN IRRITATES U.S. WITH NEW IRANIAN AMBASSADOR."
END OF MESSAGE

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<<<<< SECTION 9 >>>>

USIA

"PERISHABLE INFORMATION -- DO NOT SERVICE"

USIA EU, P/M, P/RM, P/FW, P/FN, P/R, P/RWE, P/GR, VOA/PE, P/P, MBFR - STATE EUR/CE; EUR:P; PM; INR/RWE

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: GERMAN MEDIA REACTION REPORT

"THE U.S. IS OBVIOUSLY IRRITATED ABOUT THE BONN GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT ACCEPTED AN IRANIAN AS NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE FRG WHO IS SUSPECTED BY THE U.S. OF HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE HOSTAGE CRISIS AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHERAN FROM 1979 TO 1981.

"STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CHARLES REDMAN SAID AT THE WEEKEND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS MENTIONED THIS PROBLEM TO THE BONN GOVERNMENT ON SEVERAL OCCASSIONS. IT HANDED OVER 'CONVINCING INFORMATION' ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF MEHDI AHARI MOSTAFAWI IN THE KIDNAPPING OF THE U.S.

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HOSTAGES IN TEHERAN....

"A BONN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SAID IN WASHINGTON THAT MOSTAFAWI HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA, AND THE U.S. DID NOT RAISE ANY CONCERNS AT THAT TIME."

K. WALDHEIM

1. LEFT-OF-CENTER NEWS MAGAZINE DER SPIEGEL OF HAMBURG CARRIED A NEWS REPORT UNDER THE HEADLINE "WALDHEIM RESIGNATION IMMINENT?"

"RETURNING FROM A CONFIDENTIAL MEETING WITH NAZI HUNTER SIMON WIESENTHAL, CHANCELLOR KOHL BROUGHT WITH HIM THE RECOGNITION THAT AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** WILL HARDLY BE ABLE TO STAY IN OFFICE.

"DURING A LUNCHEON IN A...VIENNA HOTEL TWO WEEKS AGO, WIESENTHAL EXPLAINED TO THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR THE PROCEDURE OF WALDHEIM'S RESIGNATION. ACCORDING TO WIESENTHAL, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF HISTORIANS WHICH...IS EXAMINING WALDHEIM'S POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN ACTIVITIES OF HITLER'S ARMY COULD PROVIDE WALDHEIM WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO BOW OUT GRACEFULLY.

"THE COMMISSION WOULD DECIDE THAT ALTHOUGH WALDHEIM HAD NOT TOLD THE TRUTH AND KNEW MUCH MORE THAN HE PUBLICLY ADMITTED, HE HAD NOT MADE HIMSELF GUILTY. AFTER BEING REHABILITATED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BODY, WALDHEIM COULD THEN SAY THAT HE DOES NOT WANT TO BE A FURTHER BURDEN FOR AUSTRIA, BEFORE RESIGNING FROM OFFICE...."

CATHERMAN

END OF MESSAGE

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