

CONFIDENTIAL
FOUO

DOCUMENT_ID: 129272373
INQNO: DOC7D 00490825
DOCNO: TEL 016962 87
PRODUCER: VIENNA
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19871212
TOR: 043806
DOCPREC: P
ORIGDATE: 198712111823
MHFNO: 87 7167040
DOCCLASS: C
CAVEATS: FOUO

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
 Retain classn.
 Declassify after _____
Change/classify to _____
with concurrence of _____
Date: 8/29/07
EO 12958, 25X
IPS/CR/IR by _____

HEADER
PP RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
UTS5477
PP RUEHC
DE RUFHVI #6962/01 3451826
ZNY CCCC ZZH
P 111823Z DEC 87
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8630
INFO RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 7021
RUFHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 3702
RUFHBE/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 9192
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 2392
RUDKDA/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 3874
RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 3903
RUFHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1326
RUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0761
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0115
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 5389
RUFHMB/USMISSION USVIENNA 0764
RUEBWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
BT

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

CONTROLS
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENNA 16962

USVIENNA FOR UNVIE AND MBFR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, AU
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM: THE CONTROVERSY RAGES ON

REFS: (A) VIENNA 16883 (NOTAL), (B) VIENNA 16316,
(C) VIENNA 16173 (NOTAL)

1. (U) SUMMARY:
AS WE HAVE BEEN REPORTING (REFTELS), AUSTRIAN OPINION ON

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
DECLASSIFICATION AND/OR
RELEASE OF CIA INFORMATION
IN THIS DOCUMENT

FOUO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
FOUO

THE WALDHEIM ISSUE HAS UNDERGONE A SEA CHANGE IN THE LAST MONTH OR SO. IN ITS CURRENT PHASE, THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE (OFTEN SELF-CONTRADICTORY) DISCUSSION HERE ARE:

- A GROWING CONVICTION THAT THE HISTORIANS COMMISSION CHARGED WITH EXAMINING THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT'S PAST WILL CONCLUDE HE KNEW OF WEHRMACHT WAR ATROCITIES, AND MAY EVEN REPORT INDICATIONS HE HAD SOME PERIPHERAL INVOLVEMENT;
- A DAILY PARADE OF PUBLIC INVITATIONS TO RESIGN FROM WALDHEIM CRITICS, AND OF MORE DISCRETE HINTS OF FATIGUE WITH WALDHEIM FROM ERSTWHILE DEFENDERS;
- A REVIVAL OF "SLANDER CAMPAIGN" VOCABULARY, EARLIER USED TO RETAIATE FOR U.S. STATEMENTS AGAINST WALDHEIM, NOW DIRECTED AGAINST NEAL SHER (REF. A) FOR WHAT IS SEEN BY SOME HERE AS ANOTHER CASE OF INNUENDO WITHOUT PROOF;
- WIDESPREAD APPREHENSION THAT WALDHEIM WILL PROVE INVINCIBLY IMPERVIOUS TO THE EMBARRASSMENT HE IS CAUSING AUSTRIA AND HANG ONTO HIS OFFICE COME WHAT MAY. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) THE HISTORIANS COMMISSION EXAMINING **KURT WALDHEIM'S** WAR RECORD HAD ANOTHER MEETING IN VIENNA LAST WEEK. FOLLOWING IT, COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HANS RUDOLF KURZ MADE THE POINT THAT THE COMMISSION STILL HAD A LARGE VOLUME OF DOCUMENTATION TO EVALUATE. "WE HAVE FOUND THAT THERE ARE YET ADDITIONAL FILES WHICH WE DID NOT KNOW OF", SAID KURZ, ADDING THAT "THEY SEEM TO BE SPREAD OVER EVERY CONTINENT". THE COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT WILL BE DELIVERED AT THE END OF JANUARY AT THE EARLIEST, ACCORDING TO KURZ. OTHER OBSERVERS DO NOT EXPECT IT BEFORE FEBRUARY. AT SOME POINT IN JANUARY, THE PANEL WILL QUESTION WALDHEIM ON "TECHNICAL DETAILS".

3. (U) MEANWHILE, AUSTRIANS ARE NOW RECEIVING A DAILY DIET OF ARTICLES ABOUT WALDHEIM'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE WAR. THERE ARE ALLEGED LEAKS FROM MEMBERS OF THE HISTORIANS COMMISSION, CLAIMS BY FOREIGN JOURNALISTS THAT NEW EVIDENCE HAS BEEN FOUND IMPLICATING WALDHEIM AS KNOWING ABOUT OR EVEN BEING INVOLVED IN DEPORTATIONS AND REPRISALS, AS WELL AS A STEADY PRO AND CON ABOUT THE DEFENSE OF WALDHEIM PRESENTED IN THE SO-CALLED WHITE BOOK. AS A RESULT, A GENERAL SENSE APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING THAT, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE WALDHEIM CONTROVERSY WILL NOT GO AWAY IF HE DOES NOT. ACCORDING TO A POLL ORDERED BY THE MONTHLY YOUTH MAGAZINE "WIENER", MORE THAN HALF OF ALL AUSTRIANS ARE FOR A WALDHEIM RESIGNATION IF THE HISTORIANS COMMISSION CONCLUDES HE HAD KNOWLEDGE OF WAR CRIMES.

4. (U) CONSERVATIVE POLITICIANS HAVE LARGELY REFRAINED FROM DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE SCENARIOS FOR A WALDHEIM RESIGNATION. THEY HAVE GENERALLY ADVISED A WAIT-AND-SEE POLICY, BUT IS HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THIS RESERVE IS INSPIRED MORE AND MORE BY APPREHENSION OVER WHAT THE HISTORIANS REPORT WILL CONTAIN. NEW PEOPLE'S PARTY (OVP) SECRETARY GENERAL HELMUT KUKACKA, FOR EXAMPLE, PUT FURTHER DISTANCE (REF. B) BETWEEN HIS PARTY

CONFIDENTIAL
FOUO

AND THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE SAID THAT WALDHEIM WAS NO LONGER THE OVP CANDIDATE BUT RATHER THE ELECTED PRESIDENT AND, THUS, THE PROBLEM OF THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE. WHILE CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY HAS MAINTAINED A "CORRECT" POSITION ON WALDHEIM, OTHER SOCIALIST REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN MORE OUTSPOKEN. ONE OF THE MOST TELLING STATEMENTS IN THIS RESPECT CAME FROM SOCIALIST MAYOR OF VIENNA, HELMUT ZILK. ON THE WEEKLY "MEET-THE-PRESS" TV PROGRAM LAST WEEKEND, ZILK NOTED THAT WALDHEIM'S RESIGNATION WOULD BE "APPROPRIATE" IF THE FINDINGS ARE OF A NATURE WHICH "QUESTION THE CREDIBILITY OF A PERSON IN
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 16962

USVIENNA FOR UNVIE AND MBFR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, AU

SUBJECT: WALDHEIM: THE CONTROVERSY RAGES ON

SUCH A GRAVE FASHION THAT THIS PERSON COULD NOT ACT AS MORAL AUTHORITY". ZILK ALSO STRESSED THAT WALDHEIM WOULD HAVE "THE FIRST, BUT NOT NECESSARILY THE LAST WORD" AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF THE HISTORIANS COMMISSION REPORT. SOCIALIST PARTY (SPO) CENTRAL SECRETARY PETER SCHIEDER EXPLICITLY AGREED WITH ZILK IN THE LATTER ASSESSMENT. CHAMBER OF LABOR PRESIDENT ADOLF CZETTEL (SPO) PULLED NO PUNCHES WHATSOEVER IN PUBLICLY CHALLENGING WALDHEIM TO STAND DOWN IF HE FELT ANY SHRED OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR AUSTRIA'S WELFARE.

5. (U) IN THE ABSENCE OF CRIMINAL ACTS OR A VIOLATION OF THE CONSTITUTION, AN IMPEACHMENT PROCEDURE AGAINST THE PRESIDENT WOULD REQUIRE A TWO THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND A SUBSEQUENT REFERENDUM - A PROCEDURE WHICH MOST OBSERVERS (INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT) FIND IMPRACTICAL. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD NOT HAVE ANY LEGAL FORCE, A JOINT SOCIALIST-CONSERVATIVE CALL FOR WALDHEIM'S RESIGNATION WOULD PRESUMABLY BE VERY DIFFICULT TO RESIST. TO EASE THE PAIN FOR THE OVP A PROPOSAL IS REPORTEDLY BEING PROMOTED IN SOCIALIST CIRCLES TO REACH A GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH ANOTHER OVP POLITICIAN WOULD BE NOMINATED TO REPLACE WALDHEIM FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS SIX-YEAR PRESIDENTIAL TERM, THEREBY AVOIDING NEW ELECTIONS. THIS SOLUTION WOULD, HOWEVER, REQUIRE A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT WOULD EMPOWER BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT TO APPOINT A WALDHEIM SUCCESSOR.

6. (U) BY ALL ACCOUNTS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, WALDHEIM PERSONALLY IS DETERMINED TO STAY ON UNDER PRACTICALLY ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. SPEAKING TO JOURNALISTS, HE HAS REPEATEDLY UNDERSCORED THAT HE WOULD REMAIN PRESIDENT FOR THE FULL TERM OF HIS OFFICE. MOST RECENTLY, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH CONSERVATIVE "DIE PRESSE", WALDHEIM STRESSED HE WOULD NOT "GIVE IN TO PRESSURE", AND WOULD NOT "DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS FROM THE CONTINUATION OF THE SLANDER

CONFIDENTIAL
FOUO

CAMPAIGN".

7. (LOU) COMMENT: PRIVATE EXPRESSIONS OF DISDAIN FOR WALDHEIM AS AN INDIVIDUAL OF INSENSITIVITY AND EGOTISM HAVE GROWN STEADILY MORE WIDESPREAD HERE. IN RECENT WEEKS, A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PROMINENT AUSTRIANS HAVE BEEN WILLING TO BRING THESE OPINIONS MORE OR LESS CANDIDLY BEFORE THE PUBLIC. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, MANY OF THESE SAME AUSTRIANS CONTINUE TO BE OUTRAGED AT WHAT THEY CONSIDER AN UNDERHANDED ATTEMPT BY NEAL SHER TO FINISH OFF WALDHEIM THROUGH INNUENDO. TO ALL APPEARANCES, BLIND RESENTMENT AT "OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE" IS BEHIND THE DISCONNECT BETWEEN A GROWING BODY OF EVIDENCE THAT HAS UNDERMINED WALDHEIM'S VERSION OF HIS SERVICE IN THE BALKANS, ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE ENDURING CONVICTION THAT THE U.S. HAS FAILED TO SUSTAIN ITS CASE FOR PUTTING HIM ON THE WATCH LIST, ON THE OTHER. HABIB

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

FOUO
CONFIDENTIAL