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CONTROLS
C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 01035

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TEXT
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, AU, YO
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM NEWS IN BELGRADE; "NEW" DOCUMENT
- REVEALED

REF: VIENNA 1158

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY: THE BELGRADE PRESS IS PROVIDING INCREASINGLY COMPREHENSIVE AND POINTED COVERAGE OF WALDHEIM-RELATED NEWS, INCLUDING THE CONTROVERSIAL ACCUSATIONS OF YUGOSLAV HISTORIAN DUSAN PLENCA. ON FEBRUARY 2, "POLITIKA" PRINTED THE TEXT OF A USTASHI DOCUMENT "FOUND" BY A POLITIKA JOURNALIST, APPEARING TO DEAL WITH THE SAME GROUP OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS MENTIONED IN THE TELEGRAM PUBLISHED BY "DER SPIEGEL." A COLLABORATOR OF PLENCA'S BELGRADE JOURNALIST DANKO VASOVIC, REPORTEDLY IS PUBLISHING A BOOK ON WALDHEIM, TO COME OUT FEBRUARY 10, WHICH MAY CONTAIN NEW INFORMATION ON WALDHEIM'S WARTIME ACTIVITIES.

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

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SO FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOY REACTION TO THESE UNFOLDING EVENTS.
END SUMMARY.

3. OVER THE PAST WEEK THE BELGRADE PRESS HAS PROVIDED INCREASINGLY COMPREHENSIVE AND POINTED COVERAGE OF ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE "WALDHEIM COMMISSION," AND PARTICULARLY THE CONTROVERSIAL ACCUSATIONS OF YUGOSLAV HISTORIAN DUSAN PLENCA. ON FEBRUARY 2, THE DAILY NEWSPAPERS "BORBA" AND "POLITIKA" BOTH REPORTED "DER SPIEGEL'S" PUBLICATION OF THE NEW DOCUMENT OBTAINED FROM PLENCA, AND PRINTED COPIES OF IT. (BASED ON OUR READING OF THE SERBO-CROATIAN TEXT, THE TRANSLATION IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL APPEARS TO BE ACCURATE.)

4. ACCORDING TO POLITIKA THE TELEGRAM WHICH SHOWS "THE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF CURRENT AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM**, (THEN LIEUTENANT OF THE HITLER WEHRMACHT) IN CRIMES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION OF KOZARA," HAS CREATED A "SENSATION." POLITIKA STATES THAT, "IF IT IS ESTABLISHED THAT THE TELEGRAM IS TRULY AUTHENTIC, THAT IS, IF IT TRULY ORIGINATED FROM THE ARCHIVES AS THE YUGOSLAV HISTORIAN WHO FOUND IT, DUSAN PLENCA, STATES, THEN THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST DOCUMENT THAT SPEAKS ABOUT WALDHEIM'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN CRIMES AND THE DEPORTATION OF POPULATIONS DURING THE WAR."

5. POLITIKA NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN DOUBTS BOTH IN YUGOSLAVIA AND IN VIENNA ABOUT THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE TELEGRAM PLENCA SUPPLIED. POLITIKA REPORTS CHARGES ALLEGEDLY MADE IN AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY WALDHEIM (TIME AND PLACE NOT SUPPLIED) THAT THIS DOCUMENT WAS "FABRICATED BY THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR." POLITIKA ALSO REPEATS SPIEGEL'S AND PLENCA'S ASSERTION THAT THE DOCUMENT IS GENUINE, AS WELL AS PLENCA'S CLAIMS THAT HE DID NOT RECEIVE ANY MONEY FROM SPIEGEL FOR THE ARTICLE. POLITIKA DOES NOT SHED ANY LIGHT ON THE QUESTIONS REPORTED IN REF ABOUT THE CURRENT LOCATION OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

6. THE FEBRUARY 2 POLITIKA ALSO PRINTS A COPY OF A SECOND USTASHI DOCUMENT THAT ALLEGEDLY "PROVIDES EVIDENCE ABOUT THE WARTIME ROLE OF THEN WEHRMACHT LIEUTENANT **KURT WALDHEIM** ON YUGOSLAV SOIL." (TEXT OF THE DOCUMENT PRINTED IN POLITIKA FOLLOWS IN PARA. 7 BELOW.) THE PROVENANCE OF THIS NEW DOCUMENT IS

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UNCLEAR, BUT POLITIKA REPORTS THAT ONE OF ITS JOURNALISTS "FOUND" IT, APPARENTLY IN GERMAN, ITALIAN OR USTASHI ARCHIVES THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN FULLY INVESTIGATED. ACCORDING TO POLITIKA, THE DOCUMENT SEEMS TO REFER TO THE SAME GROUP OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS FROM KOZARA THAT ARE MENTIONED IN THE PLENCA DOCUMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION POLITIKA ALSO REPORTS THAT, "FROM JUNE C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 BELGRADE 01035

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UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST 1942, LIEUTENANT **KURT WALDHEIM** WAS IN THAT GERMAN COMMAND STATIONED IN BANJA LUKA, BELONGING TO ONE QUARTERMASTER CAPTAIN PLUME, THAT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ORGANIZING THE TRANSPORT OF DEPORTED PERSONS." POLITIKA POINTS OUT THAT MOST OF THESE PEOPLE WERE SENT TO USTASHI CAMPS IN JASENOVAC OR PRIJEDOR, OR TO A GERMAN CAMP IN ZEMUN FROM WHICH THEY WERE SENT ONWARD TO GERMANY OR TO NORWAY.

7. TEXT OF SECOND DOCUMENT CARRIED BY POLITIKA:

BEGIN TEXT:

IN ZAGREB, JULY 18, 1942
SUBJECT: PRISONERS FROM KOZARA IN DARUVAR.

TO: THE MAIN LEADER OF THE USTASHI ARMY

WITH REFERENCE TO THE LETTER OF THIS MINISTRY, OF THE 15TH OF THIS MONTH, NO. 5702, THE COPY OF A REPORT OF THE DISTRICT REGION OF DARUVAR, OF THE 14TH OF THIS MONTH, NO. 204/1942, IS FORWARDED FOR INFORMATION. IT READS AS FOLLOWS:

"IN CONNECTION WITH MY REPORT OF YESTERDAY, THE SAME NUMBER, I AM REPORTING THAT 4,114 PRISONERS FROM KOZARA, MAINLY COMPOSED OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND ABOUT 15 PERCENT AGED MEN, ARRIVED HERE YESTERDAY.

"AS I ALREADY STRESSED YESTERDAY, WE DO NOT CONTROL HALF THE DISTRICT. PEOPLE FROM SIRAC, WHICH HAS BEEN EMPTIED BY OUR USTASHIS, ARE FLEEING TOWARD DARUVAR. FOR MILITARY REASONS IT IS NOT AT ALL ADVISABLE TO SEND ANYONE HERE. THEREFORE, AFTER INFORMING THE USTASHI SUPERVISORY SERVICE, I SENT 2,114 PRISONERS TO GRUBISNO POLJE, AND 2,000 TO GARESNICA.

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"I POINT OUT THAT THAT MASS OF PEOPLE CAME HERE FROM SIRAC ON FOOT (8.5 KM), WHERE THEY HAD ARRIVED BY TRAIN, AND WITHOUT PAPERS, WITHOUT DOCUMENTS, WITHOUT ANY ESCORT, AND WITHOUT ANY NOTIFICATIONS.

"OTHERWISE NOTHING IMPORTANT HAPPENED YESTERDAY."

READY FOR THE HOMELAND!

BY AUTHORIZATION OF THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR
VELIKI ZUPAN AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

- (ILLEGIBLE SIGNATURE)

TO BE SENT TO:

-
1. ZUPAN OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF STATE
 2. PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT
 3. MINISTRY OF THE CROATIAN DEFENSE ("DOMOBRAN")
 4. CHIEF LEADER OF THE USTASHI ARMY
 5. HEADQUARTERS OF THE HEAD OF STATE

ZAGREB
END TEXT.

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8. OSI HISTORIAN PATRICK TREANOR, U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, WILL BE IN THE EMBASSY FEBRUARY 4 AND 5 FOR CONSULTATION. AS REPORTED BELGRADE 547, ACCESS WAS ARRANGED FOR HIM TO REVIEW MATERIALS IN VARIOUS ARCHIVES IN ZAGREB, BANJA LUKA AND SARAJEVO, BEGINNING JANUARY 25. AT HIS REQUEST, WE ARE ALSO SEEKING ACCESS FOR HIM ON FEBRUARY 4 OR 5 TO FILM ARCHIVES AT "JUGOSLOVENKA KINOTEKA" IN BELGRADE, WHERE WORLD WAR II DOCUMENTARY AND OTHER FILMS ARE AVAILABLE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AN ABC CREW HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED PERMISSION TO REVIEW THESE ARCHIVES, AND WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT TREANOR WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO AS WELL, IF TIME CONSTRAINTS DO NOT POSE A PROBLEM.

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IN ADDITION, WE ARE REQUESTING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MR. TREANOR TO PAY A COURTESY CALL ON THE DIRECTOR OF THE ARCHIVES OF THE MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE. FROM TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH MR. TREANOR IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE PLANS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH PLENCA AND WITH YUGOSLAV JOURNALIST DANKO VASOVIC (WHO HAS COLLABORATED WITH PLENCA, SEE PARA. 11, BELOW) WHEN HE COMES TO BELGRADE.

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COMMENT

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9. OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN AND YUGOSLAV JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS IN YUGOSLAVIA HAVE REVEALED SOME INFORMATION ABOUT PLENCA. BASED ON OUR DISCUSSIONS, IT APPEARS THAT HE WAS AN OFFICER IN THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY WHO RETIRED FROM ACTIVE SERVICE ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO. HE HAS APPARENTLY PURSUED AN INTEREST IN WAR CRIMES IN YUGOSLAVIA AND IN WALDHEIM'S ROLE ON AN AMATEUR BASIS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND HAS AN ASSOCIATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY HISTORY.

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10. ACCORDING TO A WESTERN JOURNALIST WHO SPOKE TO HIM ON THE PHONE, PLENCA SAID HE FOUND THE DOCUMENT PUBLISHED BY SPIEGEL IN THE ZAGREB ARCHIVES. IT HAD ALLEGEDLY BEEN OVERLOOKED BY OTHER RESEARCHERS BECAUSE IT WAS FILED IN A SECTION CONTAINING ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGES EXCHANGED AMONG USTASHI UNITS, WHICH WOULD NOT ORDINARILY BE EXPECTED TO CONTAIN MATERIAL POSSIBLY RELATING TO WAR CRIMES. AT LEAST TWO WESTERN JOURNALISTS HAVE TOLD US THEY TURNED DOWN PLENCA'S OFFER TO SELL THEM A DOCUMENT ABOUT WALDHEIM'S ROLE IN YUGOSLAVIA. BASED ON THEIR DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENT THAT PLENCA WAS PEDDLING, IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE ONE THAT SPIEGEL PUBLISHED.

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11. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT PLENCA HAS COLLABORATED WITH BELGRADE JOURNALIST DANKO VASOVIC OF THE TABLOID VECERNJE NOVOSTI. LAST APRIL, VASOVIC HINTED TO US (1987 BELGRADE 3520) THAT HE WAS IN POSSESSION OF A DOCUMENT WHICH SUPPOSEDLY LISTED WALDHEIM AS A "PERSONA NON GRATA" IN 1952, AND THAT THE DOCUMENT WOULD ONLY BE REVEALED IN A BOOK HE PLANNED TO PUBLISH ON THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR. THE SENIOR EDITOR OF MLADOST PUBLISHING HOUSE IN BELGRADE MENTIONED RECENTLY THAT MLADOST IS PRINTING A BOOK BY VASOVIC, "WALDHEIM: JEDNA KARIJERA" ("WALDHEIM: A CAREER"), TO BE PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 10. HE BELIEVES THAT THE BOOK WILL BE A "GREAT SHOCK." HE REPORTS THAT VASOVIC HAD ACCESS TO CERTAIN RESTRICTED MILITARY FILES, AND THAT THE BOOK CONTAINS NEW INFORMATION ABOUT WALDHEIM'S ACTIVITIES DURING WORLD WAR II, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT WALDHEIM'S SIGNATURE APPEARED ON DOCUMENTS TRANSFERRING PEOPLE TO DEATH CAMPS. (ACCORDING TO OSI HISTORIAN PATRICK TREANOR, VASOVIC'S BOOK HAS ALREADY

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BEEN PUBLISHED IN NORWAY, IN NORWEGIAN.) IF, AS
PLENCA CLAIMS, PLENCA HIMSELF WAS NOT PAID
BY SPIEGEL FOR THE WALDHEIM DOCUMENT, IT
COULD BE THAT PAYMENT WAS FUNNELED THROUGH
VASOVIC. WE UNDERSTAND THAT VASOVIC WAS
IN HAMBURG JUST RECENTLY.

12. THE GOY HAS ADOPTED A VERY CAUTIOUS
POSTURE THROUGHOUT THE UNFOLDING CONTROVERSY
ABOUT WALDHEIM'S POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN
QUESTIONABLE WARTIME ACTIVITIES. FOREIGN
SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT THIS
STANCE STEMS FROM A DESIRE TO AVOID DOING
ANYTHING THAT COULD DAMAGE YUGOSLAVIA'S
GENERALLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING
AUSTRIA AND TO AVOID TAKING ANY STEPS BEFORE
ALL THE FACTS ARE FULLY KNOWN. SO FAR THERE
HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOY REACTION TO THE
EVENTS UNFOLDING AROUND THE APPEARANCE OF
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THESE LATEST DOCUMENTS ABOUT WALDHEIM.
SCANLAN

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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