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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, CVIS, GE
SUBJECT: VISA INELIGIBILITY OF RETIRED GERMAN BANKER
ANNOUNCED IN BERLIN

1. REUTERS IS CARRYING A TICKER ITEM REPORTING ON A SPEECH BY NEAL SHER, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, TO THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS IN BERLIN. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS ITEM, SHER IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT **KURT WALDHEIM** WOULD REMAIN PERSONA NON GRATA IN THE U.S. AND THE HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE DEUTSCHE BANK, HERMANN JOSEF ABS, WAS ON THE U.S. WATCH LIST OF UNDESIRABLE ALIENS. ABS WAS DEEMED INELIGIBLE BECAUSE OF THE ROLE DEUTSCHE BANK PLAYED, UNDER HIS MANAGEMENT, IN THE CONFISCATION OF JEWISH ASSETS.

2. SHER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT OVER 12,000 PEOPLE ARE ON THE EVERGROWING WATCH LIST AS A RESULT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES DURING THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST PERIOD. A UNITED GERMANY, SAID SHER, MUST BECOME MORE AGGRESSIVE IN PROSECUTING NAZI CRIMINALS.

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3. AN AVLOS CHECK REVEALED AN 83 ENTRY FOR HERMANN JOSEF ABS, DPOB OCT 15, 1901, GERMANY.

4. EMBASSY RECEIVED NEITHER A REQUEST FOR COUNTRY CLEARANCE, NOR AN ADVANCE COPY OF SHER'S SPEECH. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REMIND OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR OBTAINING COUNTRY CLEARANCE.

5. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES, EMBASSY IS CITING SECTION 212(A)(33) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT AND NOTING THAT CONFISCATION OF OR ADMINISTRATION OF PROPERTY CONFISCATED FROM JEWISH OWNERS IS GROUNDS FOR A FINDING OF INELIGIBILITY UNDER U.S. LAW. THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A LEGAL FINDING OF CRIMINAL CULPABILITY, BUT MERELY RELATES TO THE INDIVIDUAL'S ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES.##

WARD

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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