

UNCLASSIFIED

DOCUMENT_ID: 166294339
INQNO: DOC15D 00207199
DOCNO: TEL 005598 90
PRODUCER: VIENNA
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19900511
TOR: 104916
DOCPREC: O
ORIGDATE: 199005111418
MHFNO: 90 6626963
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER

OO RUEAIIB
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
TOU0068
OO RUEHC
DE RUFHVI #5598/01 1311419
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 111418Z MAY 90
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2457
RUEBWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASH IMMEDIATE
RUEADWW/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS VIENNA 05598

USIS

FOR P/P, P/FN, P/FW, EU-MURRAY, VOA/BX

STATE FOR EUR/CE

WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE

JUSTICE FOR OSI - NEAL SHER

E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA MEDIA REACTION

1. SPECIAL REPORT ON AUSTRIA'S PRESS COVERAGE OF THE RECENT EVENTS AROUND NEAL SHER:

2. FOLLOWING ARE FULL TRANSLATIONS OF THE RESPECTIVE ARTICLES IN THE AUSTRIAN DAILIES "DIE PRESSE" (CIRCULATION: 78,725); "NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG" (CIRCULATION: 1,004,048), AND "SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN" (CIRCULATION: 65,194):

ENTITLED "TURMOIL AROUND NEAL SHER - U.S. INVESTIGATING

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

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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

UNCLASSIFIED

NAZI-HUNTER", THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "DIE PRESSE" REPORTS: "NEAL SHER, HEAD OF THE OSI AND INVESTIGATOR OF NAZI CRIMINALS, HAS TWICE CAUSED A STIR. NEAL SHER, WHO RECENTLY STATED IN BERLIN THAT HE WAS 'PROUD' THAT THE DECISION TO PLACE FEDERAL PRESIDENT WALDHEIM ON THE WATCHLIST HAS BEEN UPHELD, IS NOW UNDER JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE U.S. CONCERNING THE POTENTIAL SUPPRESSION OF EXCULPATING EVIDENCE FOR PERSONS ACCUSED OF HAVING COMMITTED WAR CRIMES. AT THE SAME TIME IT BECAME KNOWN IN VIENNA THAT SHER GOT IN TOUCH WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN VIENNA, IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO INTERVIEW A U.S. CITIZEN LIVING IN AUSTRIA, AT THE U.S. CONSULATE IN SALZBURG ON FRIDAY, MAY 11. SHER WAS DENIED APPROVAL. AT THAT POINT, THE FACT THAT INVESTIGATIONS WERE BEING CONDUCTED AGAINST SHER HAD NOT YET BECOME KNOWN IN AUSTRIA.

ACCORDING TO THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON IS INVESTIGATING AGAINST SHER BECAUSE HE IS SUSPECTED TO HAVE SUPPRESSED EXCULPATING EVIDENCE BY TWO KEY WITNESSES IN AT LEAST ONE OF THE CASES HE DEALT WITH, REFERRING TO THE CASE OF ARTUKOVIC. ARTUKOVIC WAS A MINISTER IN THE REGIME THE GERMANS INSTALLED IN CROATIA AND WAS EXTRADITED TO YUGOSLAVIA BY THE U.S. IN 1986, WHERE HE DIED A NATURAL DEATH IN PRISON IN 1988 AFTER HAVING BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH. REGARDING THE INTERROGATION OF A U.S. CITIZEN IN SALZBURG, THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN VIENNA STATED THAT THE ACTING CONSUL GENERAL IN SALZBURG IS THE ONLY PERSON AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT OFFICIAL U.S. ACTS, BUT NOT AN OFFICIAL OF AN AMERICAN SPECIAL AUTHORITY WHO IS NOT ACCREDITED IN VIENNA. ON THURSDAY EVENING, THE U.S. INFORMED THAT SHER HAD CANCELLED HIS TRIP TO SALZBURG. ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES ARE WILLING TO GRANT THE U.S. 'ANY SUPPORT IT NEEDS'. COOPERATION 'IN THIS FIELD' IS WORKING WELL. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY STATED THAT AMERICA WOULD FIND NO REASON TO BE IRRITATED OR COMPLAIN ABOUT A LACK OF COOPERATION ON THE PART OF AUSTRIA."

THE MASS-CIRCULATION TABLOID "NEUE KRONEN ZEITUNG" HAS A FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE THAT RUNS "JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE U.S. AGAINST TOP-RANKING WALDHEIM HUNTER", AS WELL AS AN ARTICLE ON PAGE 3 ENTITLED "SHER'S OWN MINISTRY IS INVESTIGATING AGAINST U.S. WALDHEIM-HUNTER":

"TOP U.S. WALDHEIM-HUNTER, WHO CONDUCTED THE WATCHLIST-PROCEEDINGS AGAINST FEDERAL PRESIDENT WALDHEIM, IS NOW FACING JUDICIAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE U.S.! THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE CONFIRMED THAT NEAL SHER IS UNDER INVESTIGATION.

THE REASONS ARE EXCEEDING AUTHORITY AND THE SUSPICION THAT EXCULPATING EVIDENCE WAS SUPPRESSED DURING THE WATCHLIST PROCEEDINGS. THE DUBIOUS PRACTICES OF NEAL SHER'S DEPARTMENT INVOLVED THE CASE OF THE EXTRADITION

UNCLASSIFIED

OF ANDRIJA ARTUKOVIC, AN EXILED CROAT. ARTUKOVIC, AGED 88, WHO DIED A FEW YEARS LATER IN PRISON AFTER HAVING BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH. HIS SON, WHO IS LIVING IN NEW YORK, HAS LEFT NO STONE UNTURNED TO GET U.S. CONGRESS MEMBERS TO START INVESTIGATIONS AGAINST NEAL SHER'S OFFICE. SHER IS BEING ACCUSED OF HAVING KNOWINGLY IGNORED THE EXCULPATING PROOFS OF ARTUKOVIC'S SON, WHILE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 VIENNA 05598

USIS

FOR P/P, P/FN, P/FW, EU-MURRAY, VOA/BX

STATE FOR EUR/CE

WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE

JUSTICE FOR OSI - NEAL SHER

E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: AUSTRIA MEDIA REACTION

PRODUCING ONLY INCRIMINATING EVIDENCE BEFORE THE U.S. COURT. ACCORDING TO A WASHINGTON POST REPORT ENTITLED "U.S. NAZI-HUNTER UNDER INVESTIGATION", BOTH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONFIRMED TO CONGRESS THAT INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED AGAINST NEAL SHER."

THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN" RUNS A PARTLY INCORRECT ARTICLE ENTITLED "NEAL SHER PLANS INTERROGATIONS IN SALZBURG". THE U.S. EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED THE REPORTER WITH A CORRECTION.

"NEAL SHER, HEAD OF THE AMERICAN AUTHORITY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF NAZI CRIMES AND OTHER WAR CRIMES, WANTS TO INTERVIEW WITNESSES AGAINST FEDERAL PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM** IN AUSTRIA- SHER PLANS TO CONDUCT HIS INVESTIGATIONS AT THE U.S. CONSULATE IN SALZBURG NEXT MONDAY. IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATION, SHER HAS REPEATEDLY ACTED TO THE DETRIMENT OF PRESIDENT WALDHEIM AND DECLARED THAT THE BAN ON ENTRY INTO THE U.S. (WATCHLIST-DECISION) WILL BE UPHELD. IN A STATEMENT TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CRITICIZED SHER'S PLANS AND REFERRED TO THE CONULAR CONVENTION: THE CONSUL GENERAL WAS FREE TO CONDUCT SUCH INTERVIEWS, AND AUSTRIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN COOPERATIVE IN SIMILAR CASES. YET, THE CONSUL GENERAL SHOULD NOT DO THIS 'WITHOUT AN OSI REPRESENTATIVE BEING OFFICIALLY PRESENT'. OBVIOUSLY, THIS FORMALITY WOULD ENABLE SHER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERVIEW AS A 'PRIVATE' PERSON.

THIS WEEK, SHER HAS ALREADY CAUSED A STIR WITH HIS STATEMENTS BEFORE THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS. U.S. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES BILLO WAS ASKED TO THE FOREIGN

UNCLASSIFIED

MINISTRY." END TRANSLATIONS.
O'CONNOR

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 4