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DOCUMENT_ID: 32176676
INQNO: DOC19D 00062673
DOCNO: TEL 005470 91
PRODUCER: VIENNA
SOURCE: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19910529
TOR: 115042
DOCPREC: O
ORIGDATE: 199105291535
MHFNO: 91 4299663
DOCCLASS: U

HEADER

OO RUEAIIB
ZNR UUUUU ZOC STATE ZZH
MSI8951
OO RUEHC
DE RUFHVI #5470/01 1491537
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 291535Z MAY 91
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUFHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 4083
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3474
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1058
INFO RUCPDC/USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUFHMB/USMISSION USVIENNA IMMEDIATE 3900
BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS VIENNA 05470

USIS

USIA FOR EU

STATE FOR EUR/CE, INR/WEA AND INR/P

USDOC FOR 4220/IEP/EUR OEW FOR P. COMBS

USVIENNA FOR USDEL CFE AND UNVIE

E.O. 12356: N/A
COMBINE: COMPLETE

TEXT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO. 88, FOR MAY 29, 1991

1. PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION:
CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY AND FOREIGN MINISTER MOCK SPOKE
YESTERDAY BEFORE PARLIAMENT ON THE STATE OF AUSTRIA'S
"INTEGRATION INTO EUROPE". BOTH VRANITZKY AND MOCK
PRAISED THE OPPORTUNITIES MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC AND THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA WILL AVAIL.

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CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY SAID IN HIS ADDRESS THAT THE "HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS" COULD ALSO TAKE PLACE WITHOUT AUSTRIA, BUT AUSTRIA SHOULD ACCEPT THAT CHALLENGE AND COULD DO SO "WITH GREAT SELF-CONFIDENCE". VRANITZKY SAID THE MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNLIKELY TO START BEFORE 1993. HE LISTED SEVERAL ADVANTAGES, SUCH AS FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE EC'S STUDENT AND EMPLOYEE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH, NO JOB PERMIT REQUIREMENTS, FREE SETTLEMENT OF ENTERPRISES IN OTHER EC COUNTRIES, ETC. THE HEAD OF THE AUSTRIAN GREEN'S PARLIAMENTARY PARTY VOGGENHUBER VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED MEMBERSHIP IN BOTH THE EC AND THE ECONOMIC AREA, DESCRIBING IT AS A "SUBJUGATION OF ALL FIELDS OF LIFE TO THE DICTATE OF QUANTITATIVE GROWTH".

FOREIGN EDITOR OF THE INDEPENDENT DAILY "DIE PRESSE" ANDREAS UNTERBERGER COMMENTS ON THE DEBATE ON AUSTRIA'S INTEGRATION INTO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS NEUTRALITY:

"FOREIGN MINISTER (MOCK) WAS DEEP INTO WISHFUL THINKING WHEN HE SAID THAT NEUTRALITY IN EUROPE TODAY IS LOOKED UPON 'POSITIVELY' AND WILL DEVELOP A 'NEW MEANING.' THE EUROPEAN MESSAGE TO AUSTRIA IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT AND QUITE CLEAR: THE COUNTRY IS MOST WELCOME NOT ONLY IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA (EWR) BUT ALSO IN THE EC, BUT THERE ARE NO SIGNS THAT BECAUSE OF ITS NEUTRALITY STATUS AUSTRIA WILL RECEIVE ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT OR WILL BE ALLOWED TO PICK THE RAISINS OUT OF THE EUROPEAN CAKE." (DIE PRESSE, P.1)

2. CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA: CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY'S RECENT VISIT IN THE CSFR GAVE A NEW IMPULSE TO CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AUSTRIA WILL OPEN AN "OBERSTUFENREALGYMNASIUM" (A SCIENCES-ORIENTED SECONDARY SCHOOL) IN PRAGUE IN AUTUMN. PROGRESS HAS ALSO BEEN MADE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN "OESTERREICH HAUS" IN PRAGUE- (DER STANDARD, P.4)

3. AUSTRIAN/ISRAELI RELATIONS TO BE INTENSIFIED: TODAY, MAY 29, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN OFFICE THOMAS KLESTIL IS STARTING A THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO JERUSALEM. THIS IS THE HIGHEST-RANKING VISIT SINCE **KURT WALDHEIM** WAS ELECTED AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT. KLESTIL EMPHASIZED THAT "BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE THAT HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED". THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT IS THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF JERUSALEM'S VIENNA-BORN MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK- KLESTIL WILL ALSO MEET WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU AND THE OPPOSITION MEMBERS PERES AND RABIN. INDEPENDENT "DER STANDARD" MENTIONS THAT DEPENDENTS OF ISRAELIS REPORTED MISSING AFTER WORLD WAR II HAVE ASKED FOR A MEETING WITH THOMAS KLESTIL. THE PAPER COMMENTS THAT THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETING FROM THE HUMANITARIAN POINT OF VIEW. (DER STANDARD, P.6)

4. PRESIDENT WALDHEIM TO VISIT IRAN: IN AN INTERVIEW

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WITH INDEPENDENT "DER STANDARD", SAID RAJAIE KHORASSANI, PRESIDENT OF THE IRANIAN PARLIAMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL, SAID PRESIDENT WALDHEIM'S VISIT FROM JUNE 9-12 MARKS A "HIGHLIGHT IN THE EXCELLENT BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND OPENS UP NEW HORIZONS OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH AUSTRIA"-- ON THE QUESTION WHETHER THERE WAS A CHANCE FOR WALDHEIM TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF ONE OR MORE WESTERN HOSTAGES IN LEBANON, KHORASSANI IS REPORTED TO HAVE INDICATED THAT TEHRAN WILL ONLY MAKE USE OF ITS "LIMITED INFLUENCE ON THE KIDNAPPERS IN LEBANON IF ISRAEL RELEASES SHIITE LEBANESE".

AS FAR AS COOPERATION WITH AUSTRIA IS CONCERNED, KHORASSANI SAID HE WAS MAINLY THINKING OF THE UNITED NATIONS. HE MENTIONED THE AREAS OF DISARMAMENT, THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS BAN, AND THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEE AID. ALSO, HE SAID IRAN WAS INTERESTED IN AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON SECURITY IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND THE MIDDLE EAST. (DER STANDARD, P.6)
O'CONNOR

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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