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TEXT

TAGS: AU PREL PGOV IT  
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN NEWS ROUND-UP, AUGUST 19, 1994

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SUMMARY  
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1. THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE ARREST OF AN ALLEGED SOUTH TYROLIAN ACTIVIST, KAROLA UNTERKIRCHER, CONTINUES IN AUSTRIA. THERE HAVE BEEN ACCUSATIONS SHE MAY HAVE BEEN

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KIDNAPPED AND TAKEN TO ITALIAN TERRITORY SO ITALIAN POLICE COULD ARREST HER. AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOCK PLANS TO RAISE THE QUESTION WITH ITALIAN PRESIDENT SCALFARO WHEN HE VISITS AUSTRIA THIS WEEK-END. WHILE THE OVP FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN SPOKE OF A 'DIRTY TRICK' AND ACCUSED THE ITALIANS OF HAVING USED AN INFORMANT, AUSTRIA'S SECURITY CHIEF SAID THE KIDNAPPING ACCUSATION

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WAS UNFOUNDED.

THE MASS-CIRCULATION "NEUE KRONENZEITUNG" (NKZ) CONTINUES TO CRITICIZE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR KEEPING **KURT WALDHEIM** ON THE WATCH-LIST. NKZ CLAIMS THE USG IS BEING PRESSURED BY THE AMERICAN MEDIA (MAINLY THE NEW YORK TIMES) TO NOT REVOKE THE WATCH-LIST DECISION. NKZ SEES ITS ARGUMENT IS SUPPORTED BY A COMMENTARY BY A.M. ROSENTHAL CRITICIZING THE POPE FOR AWARDED WALDHEIM A PAPAL ORDER OF MERIT. THIS COMMENTARY WAS PRINTED IN FULL IN THE INDEPENDENT VIENNA DAILY "DER STANDARD".

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"THE ARREST WAS LEGAL"  
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2. THE ARREST OF THE AUSTRIAN SOUTH TYROLIAN ACTIVIST, KAROLA UNTERKIRCHER, BY ITALIAN POLICE UNDOUBTEDLY TOOK PLACE ON ITALIAN SOIL, ACCORDING TO A REPORT BY THE AUSTRIAN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. THE CHARGE OF KIDNAPPING IS UNFOUNDED ACCORDING TO MICHAEL SIKI, AUSTRIAN HEAD OF SECURITY. AUSTRIAN REACTIONS TO THE ARREST VARIED. AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOCK CRITICIZED THE HANDLING BY THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES, AND THE OVP FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESPERSON ANDREAS KHOL SPOKE OF "A DUBIOUS AFFAIR". THE TYROLIAN SPO REPRESENTATIVE ERWIN NIEDERWIESER STATED THAT "KHOL SHOULD NOT GET OVEREXCITED AND NOT MAKE A 'BIG DEAL' OF THIS AFFAIR".

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MASSIVE PRESSURE TO UPHOLD WATCH-LIST DECISION AGAINST WALDHEIM  
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3. THE MASS-CIRCULATION "NEUE KRONENZEITUNG" TAKES A RECENT COMMENTARY BY A.M. ROSENTHAL IN THE "NEW YORK TIMES" AS PROOF FOR THE U.S. MEDIA TO PRESSURE THE USG INTO UPHOLDING THE WATCH-LIST DECISION AGAINST **KURT WALDHEIM**. ROSENTHAL HAS CRITICIZED THE POPE FOR AWARDED WALDHEIM A PAPAL ORDER OF MERIT. NKZ: "IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT FACED WITH SUCH A MEDIA DRUMFIRE, BECAUSE THE AWARD WAS GIVEN TO WALDHEIM THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT RECONSIDER ITS WATCH-LIST DECISION. CLEARLY, THE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT WANT TO ADD 'WALDHEIM TROUBLES' TO THEIR OWN."

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