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AUSTRIA: Waldheim Elected

Kurt Waldheim won 53.9 percent of the votes cast in the second round of Austria's presidential election yesterday. His Socialist opponent, Kurt Steyrer, captured only 46.1 percent. Turnout was a relatively low 87.25 percent of the registered voters. Waldheim will be Austria's first non-Socialist president since World War II. ~~(S)~~

Comment: Waldheim's victory was a convincing one by Austrian standards, and many in the conservative People's Party will portray the result as a shift in voter sentiment. Indeed, the high rate of abstentions probably reflects not only general discontent with the bitter electoral campaign but also antipathy among traditional Socialist supporters over the state of their party. Nevertheless, Chancellor Sinowatz—a Socialist—has denied rumors that he will resign or call early elections. The new round of accusations against Waldheim that surfaced over the weekend suggests that the debate over his past will continue, burdening particularly relations with the US and Israel. ~~(S)~~

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2001

- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(G) Foreign Relations

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ~~Top Secret~~

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--LEAD/FRONT PAGE NEWS:

KNESSET REJECTS EXTENSION OF ISRAELI LAW TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; PLO SPOKESMAN CALLS ON HUSSEIN TO "RECONSIDER"; ISRAELI JOURNALIST URI AVNERI IN AMMAN; WALDHEIM LINKED TO NAZIS; STATE DEPT OFFICIAL RECANTS STATEMENT.

--JERUSALEM/WEST BANK NEWS:

ARABS AND ISRAELIS ANALYZE AL MASRI'S ASSASSINATION; NEW NABLUS MAYOR ASSERTS "LIFE WILL CONTINUE."

EAST JERUSALEM ELECTRIC COMPANY WORKERS PROTEST ISRAELI COURT DECISION.

FAMILY OF MURDERED ATTORNEY AZIZ SHEHADEH CLAIMS POLICE INVESTIGATION "INADEQUATE."

MILGOV CLOSES TWO OFFICES OF WEST BANK LABOR UNION IN NABLUS.

GOI PLANNING NEW CONSTRUCTION IN HEBRON FOR SETTLERS?

STUDENT PLACED UNDER SIX MONTH TOWN ARREST.

PALESTINIAN INMATES IN BEERSHEBA PRISON PROTEST CONDITIONS.

--EDITORIALS:

SUPPORTING A "CLEAR REPLY" TO HUSSEIN; "ELIMINATING ARAB INSTITUTIONS"; "CREEPING ANNEXATION"; "NO POSSIBILITY OF CONCILIATION BETWEEN ARAFAT AND HUSSEIN".

END SUMMARY.

2. LEAD/FRONT PAGE NEWS

ALL PAPERS:

ALL PAPERS RAN FRONT PAGE STORIES ON FEATURED THE KNESSET'S REJECTION OF TEHIYA MK GEULA COHEN'S BILL TO EXTEND ISRAELI LAW TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. PRO-PLO AL FAJR HEADLINED THE STORY "THE KNESSET REFUSES OPENLY WHAT IT AIMS AT IN SECRET". PRIME MINISTER PERES SPOKE IN OPPOSITION TO THE BILL SAYING THAT IT IS NOT REALISTIC TO ANNEX THE TERRITORIES WITH THEIR EXPANDING POPULATIONS AND THAT ISRAEL CANNOT RENEGE ON CAMP DAVID. ALL PAPERS REPORTED THAT ISRAELI JOURNALIST URI AVNERI IS IN AMMAN WHERE HE IS MEETING WITH JORDANIAN AND PLO OFFICIALS.

SELECTED PAPERS:

LEAD STORIES IN MODERATE AL QUDS AND AL FAJR FEATURED PLO SPOKESMAN AHMED ABDUL RAHMAN'S COMMENTS CALLING ON

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KING HUSSEIN TO "RECONSIDER HIS POLICY TOWARDS THE PLO."

THE POST, AL FAJR AND ASHAAB REPORTED WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS ACCUSATIONS THAT FORMER UN SECRETARY GENERAL UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 03 JERUSALEM 00900

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PROG, PREL, SCUL, SHUM, IS, JO, KPAL
SUBJECT: JERUSALEM AND WEST BANK PRESS SUMMARY FOR

KURT WALDHEIM SERVED WITH A NAZI UNIT LINKED WITH WAR CRIMES IN THE BALKANS.

THE POST REPORTED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY STATED THAT SOME PLO ACTIVITIES WERE "LEGITIMATE ACTIONS OF RESISTANCE WITHIN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES" SAID YESTERDAY, "I AM PREPARED TO SAY I MADE A MISTAKE AND LET IT LIE AT THAT."

3. JERUSALEM/WEST BANK NEWS:

ALL PAPERS REPORTED THE CONTINUED MOURNING IN NABLUS FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF MAYOR ZAFER AL MASRI. AL QUDS NOTED THAT, DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WISHING TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO THE FAMILY, THE PERIOD OF MOURNING HAS BEEN EXTENDED FOR THE FIFTH DAY. AL FAJR REPORTED THAT THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DECIDED MARCH 5 TO BUILD A MEMORIAL TO AL MASRI ON THE SPOT WHERE HE WAS MURDERED. THE PAPER ALSO REPORTED THAT A CURFEW IS STILL IN EFFECT IN THE CITY CENTER AND THAT MOST SHOPS THROUGHOUT THE CITY REMAIN CLOSED.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE JERUSALEM POST, AL FAJR EDITOR HANNA SENIORA DEPICTED AL MASRI'S FUNERAL AS "A REFERENDUM. THE PALESTINIANS VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY FOR YASSER ARAFAT AND DENOUNCED JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN, SYRIA AND THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION." IN A SEPARATE INTERVIEW, LABOR MK AMNON LINN TOLD THE POST, "THE KING KNOWS THAT AL MASRI'S MURDER IS A PERSONAL WARNING TO HIM, NOT JUST A BAD OMEN....DEVOLUTION DIED ALONG WITH ZAFER AL MASRI. NO PALESTINIAN, HOWEVER MODERATE, WILL ACCEPT EVEN AN ADMINISTRATIVE POST AT MEDIUM LEVEL, LET ALONE A MAYORAL CANDIDACY."

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH AL FAJR, THE NEW MAYOR OF NABLUS, HAFEZ TOUKAN, SAID "LIFE WILL CONTINUE" AND THE MUNICIPALITY WILL MAINTAIN THE "SAME SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION." ON THE ISSUE OF ELECTIONS, TOUKAN SAID, "THEY WERE THE DEMAND OF ZAFER RIGHT FROM THE START AND WE CONTINUE TO DEMAND THEM." HE ALSO STATED THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE NEED "CONCILIATION AND UNITY" BETWEEN THE PLO AND JORDAN.

ASHAAB, AL MITHAQ AND ATTALIA LED WITH AND ALL OTHER

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PAPERS PROMINENTLY FEATURED REPORTS AND PICTURES OF YESTERDAY'S STRIKE BY WORKERS AT THE EAST JERUSALEM ELECTRIC COMPANY IN PROTEST AGAINST A JERUSALEM DISTRICT COURT ORDER ATTACHING THE COMPANY'S ASSETS. THE POST REPORTED THAT THE WORKERS PREVENTED ISRAELIS FROM ENTERING THE COMPANY'S HEADQUARTERS ON MARCH 5 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1967. THE ARABIC PAPERS QUOTED JORDANIAN MINISTER OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TAHER KANAAN THAT ISRAEL'S ACTION AGAINST THE ELECTRIC COMPANY IS PART OF ITS POLICY TO ERASE ARAB LANDMARKS.

ALL PAPERS NOTED THAT THE FAMILY OF MURDERED ATTORNEY AZIZ SHEHADEH CLAIMED, IN A MARCH 5 PRESS CONFERENCE, THAT THE POLICE INVESTIGATION INTO THE EARLY DECEMBER SLAYING HAS BEEN "INADEQUATE." SHEHADEH'S SON, RAJA, WAS QUOTED BY THE POST AS SAYING THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF CRIMES SOLVED IN THE WEST BANK IS VERY LOW AND THAT SOME CRIMINALS ARE EVEN "AGENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT." HE ALSO STATED THAT THERE COULD BE A LINK BETWEEN THE SHEHADEH MURDER AND THAT OF ZAFER AL MASRI. THE POST QUOTED A GOI POLICE SOURCE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WAS BEING UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 03 JERUSALEM 00900

USIA FOR P/R, P/P, P/FW, P/FN, BXN/VOA, NEA,
USCENTCOM/USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PROG, PREL, SCUL, SHUM, IS, JO, KPAL
SUBJECT: JERUSALEM AND WEST BANK PRESS SUMMARY FOR
DONE TO SOLVE THE CRIME.

ALL PAPERS REPORTED THAT THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT CLOSED TWO OFFICES MARCH 5 OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF LABOR UNIONS IN NABLUS. CLAIMING THEY WERE FRONTS FOR TERRORIST GROUPS, THE MILGOV CONFISCATED DOCUMENTS FROM THE OFFICES WHICH THEY SEALED FOR SIX MONTHS. NO ARRESTS WERE REPORTED.

QUOTING THE ISRAELI PAPER KOTERET VASHIT, AL MITHAQ SAID THAT THE ISRAELI MINISTRY OF HOUSING PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A BUILDING OF TWELVE APARTMENTS FOR JEWISH SETTLEES IN THE HEART OF HEBRON.

ASHAAB AND AL FAJR ALSO REPORTED THAT A MEMBER OF THE BIR ZEIT STUDENT COUNCIL WAS PLACED UNDER TOWN ARREST FOR SIX MONTHS.

COMMUNIST ATTALIA AND ASHAAB REPORTED THAT 27 PALESTINIAN INMATES BEING HELD AT BEEKSHEVA PRISON INITIATED A STRIKE MARCH 5 IN PROTEST AGAINST HARSH TREATMENT AND BAD CONDITIONS.

4. EDITORIALS:

AL FAJR STATED THAT THE PLO IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID A SPLIT WITH JORDAN. "WE HOPE THAT THE OFFICIAL PLO REPLY TO

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KING HUSSEIN'S SPEECH WILL BE CLEAR AND COMPREHENSIVE, WILL STRENGTHEN THE PRINCIPLES OF UNITY AND WILL TELL EVERYONE CONCERNED OF THE FIRM COMMITMENTS TO THE LEGITIMATE, NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

ASHAAB DENOUNCED THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE EAST JERUSALEM ELECTRIC COMPANY AS PART OF THE POLICY OF ELIMINATING INSTITUTIONS SIMILAR TO THE CLOSURE OF THE HOSPICE." AL MITHAQ DEcriED THE ISRAELI DISTRICT COURT DECISION TO SEIZE PROPERTY OF THE ELECTRIC COMPANY AS "AN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL ALL NATIONAL, PALESTINIAN INSTITUTIONS THROUGH VARIOUS MEANS AS PART OF A POLICY OF CREEPING ANNEXATION."

AL QUDS CONSIDERS PM PERES' KNESSET STATEMENT THAT THE GOI HAS MADE SOME MISTAKES IN ITS RULE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA AS UNSURPRISING. THE PAPER BELIEVES THAT GOI OFFICERS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES HABITUALLY SUBMIT THE "WRONG RECOMMENDATIONS ACCORDING TO THEIR WHIMS."

ATTALIA BELIEVES THAT THERE IS "NO POSSIBILITY OF CONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO, CONFLICTING CHOICES" REPRESENTED BY THE PLO AND JORDAN. "THE ONLY CHOICE REMAINS THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OR ABANDONING IT. THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE MUST CLING TO THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND CANCEL THE AMMAN AGREEMENT."
DRAPER

END OF MESSAGE

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