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CONTROLS
SECRET BRUSSELS 06432
JUSTICE FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL MEESE AND ANN RONDEAU
DEPT. FOR S-CT FOR AMBASSADOR BREMER AND R. BENTLEY
DIRFBI FOR OLIVER REVELL
NSC FOR TED MCNAMARA
PARIS FOR LEGATT
E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

TEXT
TAGS: PTER, ASEC, EEC, PREL, CVIS, AU, OVIP (MEESE,
EDWIN)
SUBJECT: ATTORNEY GENERAL MEESE DISCUSSES TERRORISM,

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WALDHEIM WITH AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTER BLECHA

REF. A. BRUSSELS 06366, B. BRUSSELS 06266

1. SECRET - ENTIRE CABLE.

SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION

2. ATTORNEY GENERAL MEESE AND AUSTRIAN INTERIOR MINISTER BLECHA MET ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, IN BRUSSELS, AFTER SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH THE EC TREVI GROUP'S TROIKA, TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRIA'S PROSECUTION OF TWO ABU NIDAL TERRORISTS INVOLVED IN THE 1986 VIENNA AIRPORT ATTACK, AUSTRIAN COUNTERTERRORIST COOPERATION WITH US AND OTHER THIRD COUNTRY LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND IMMEDIATE REACTIONS TO THE US DECISION TO PLACE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT KURT WALDHEIM ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VISA WATCH LIST. BOTH LEADERS SOUGHT TO STRENGTHEN US-AUSTRIAN TIES IN THE LIGHT OF EXPECTED CONTROVERSY OVER THE WALDHEIM DECISION. END SUMMARY.

3. AUSTRIAN PARTICIPANTS AT THE MEETING WERE MINISTER BLECHA; ANTON SCHULZ, HEAD OF AUSTRIAN STATE SECURITY; AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRIA TO BELGIUM FRANZ CESKA, AND CHRISTIAN LASSMANN, POLITICAL COUNSELOR, AUSTRIAN EMBASSY. AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED ATTORNEY GENERAL MEESE; AMBASSADOR SWAEBE; AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR COUNTERING TERRORISM L. PAUL BREMER III; CHARLES ALLEN, NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FOR COUNTERING TERRORISM; OLIVER REVELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FBI; WILLIAM WELD, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CRIMINAL AFFAIRS; TED MCNAMARA, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL; PATRICK KORTEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT; CHRIS SNOW, EMBASSY COUNSELOR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS; AND AN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER.

AUSTRIA: INCREASING ITS ANTITERRORIST EFFORT

4. BLECHA DESCRIBED HOW AUSTRIA HAS EXPANDED ITS CONTACTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES TO STRENGTHEN ANTITERRORIST EFFORTS. IN ADDITION TO CLOSER TIES WITH THE US, SYMBOLIZED BY MEESE'S DECEMBER 7 MEETING WITH BLECHA IN VIENNA, THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED ITS COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA. BLECHA SAID THAT HE EXPECTS VALUABLE INFORMATION TO FLOW FROM A VIENNA MEETING WITH THE HEAD OF KUWAIT'S STATE SECURITY SERVICE, BUT BELIEVES THAT AUSTRIA'S BEST ANTI-TERRORIST INFORMATION WILL CONTINUE TO COME FROM OTHER EUROPEAN SECURITY SERVICES. HE HOPES THAT AUSTRIA'S CONTACTS WITH THE SECURITY SERVICES OF

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OTHER COUNTRIES WILL FORM, IN EFFECT, AN "EARLY WARNING SYSTEM" AGAINST FUTURE TERRORIST ATTEMPTS IN AUSTRIA.

5. BLECHA STATED THAT HE EXPECTED THE TRIAL OF TWO ABU NIDAL MEMBERS ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE DECEMBER 27, 1985, VIENNA AIRPORT BOMBING WOULD BEGIN
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TAGS: PTER, ASEC, EEC, PREL, CVIS, AU, OVIP (MEESE, EDWIN)

SUBJECT: ATTORNEY GENERAL MEESE DISCUSSES TERRORISM, TWO WEEKS FROM THE DATE OF HIS MEETING WITH MEESE. HE TOLD MEESE THAT HIS OFFICE HAD REQUESTED LIFE SENTENCES FOR BOTH DEFENDANTS, AND THAT, AS A RESULT, HE EXPECTS FURTHER THREATS ON AUSTRIAN SECURITY FROM ABU NIDAL-RELATED SOURCES. BLECHA NOTED THAT THE AUSTRIAN POLICY NOT TO CAPITULATE TO TERRORIST DEMANDS HAS SO FAR BEEN EFFECTIVE. HIS MINISTRY EXPECTS THE TRIAL TO LAST ABOUT FIVE DAYS, LEADING MEESE TO COMPLIMENT THE PROMPTNESS OF AUSTRIAN JUSTICE.

6. THE AUSTRIAN MINISTER PRAISED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE US DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (DEA) IN VIENNA, POINTING OUT THAT ALMOST EVERY WEEK MORE ARRESTS OF DRUG DEALERS ARE MADE WITH THEIR HELP. LATELY, HE SAID, MORE AUSTRIAN DRUG ARRESTS HAVE INVOLVED COCAINE SHIPMENTS FROM SOUTH AMERICA. WHEN MEESE MENTIONED THE UN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING THAT WILL BE TAKE PLACE IN VIENNA JUNE 17-26, BLECHA SAID THAT HE HOPED TO MEET MEESE AGAIN DURING THE CONFERENCE.

AUSTRIAN VIEWS ON ABU NIDAL

7. OFFERING AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE ABU NIDAL GROUP IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BLECHA POINTED OUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA HAD FORCED THE GROUP TO LEAVE DAMASCUS FOR LIBYA, LEAVING ONLY A SMALL OFFICE BEHIND. THE LIBYANS WERE NOT HAPPY TO HOST THE ABU NIDAL OFFICE EITHER, IN THE OPINION OF AUSTRIAN SECURITY. ALTHOUGH ABU NIDAL WANTED TO BE ADMITTED INTO THE PLO, THE PLO HAD REFUSED, REALIZING

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THAT MEMBERSHIP FOR ABU NIDAL WOULD SPELL THE END OF THE PLO, ACCORDING TO BLECHA. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS HAPPY THAT THE PLO, AT ITS CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS, HAD TURNED DOWN THE ABU NIDAL MEMBERSHIP REQUEST, BUT PREDICTED THAT RENEWED ABU NIDAL ACTIVITY SHOULD BE ANTICIPATED AS A RESULT, SINCE THE GROUP NOW HAS ITS BACK TO THE WALL.

8. WHEN ATTORNEY GENERAL MEESE ASKED WHETHER INVESTIGATION PRIOR TO THE VIENNA TRIAL OF THE TWO ABU NIDAL MEMBERS HAD YIELDED ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE GROUP, MINISTER BLECHA REPLIED THAT THE DEFENDANTS APPEARED TO HAVE COME FROM REFUGEE CAMPS IN BEIRUT. HE ADDED THAT DEFENDANTS IN A SIMILAR TRIAL IN AUSTRIA IN 1985 HAD COME FROM A REFUGEE CAMP IN THE BIQA' VALLEY, NEAR DAMASCUS.

9. MEESE REMARKED THAT MORE AND MORE MIDDLE EASTERN STATES SPONSORING TERRORISM SEEMED TO USE SUCH OPERATIVES FOR ATTACKS, RATHER THAN USING THEIR BEST PEOPLE. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FOR COUNTERING TERRORISM CHARLES ALLEN, ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING, NOTED THAT SYRIA AND LIBYA INCREASINGLY USE THIRD COUNTRY SURROGATES TO CARRY OUT THEIR TERRORIST GOALS, RATHER THAN THEIR OWN CITIZENS. REFERRING TO BLECHA'S EARLIER REMARKS ABOUT ABU NIDAL'S CURRENT STANDING IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THE US HAS REPORTS OF AN ABU NIDAL OFFICE IN TRIPOLI, THE GROUP RETAINS TWO ACTIVE CAMPS IN SYRIA AS WELL A NETWORK OF COVERT OPERATIVES.
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TAGS: PTER, ASEC, EEC, PREL, CVIS, AU, OVIP (MEESE, EDWIN)
SUBJECT: ATTORNEY GENERAL MEESE DISCUSSES TERRORISM, THE AMERICAN VIEW, HE SAID, WAS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND ABU NIDAL HAD BECOME STRAINED, BUT THAT THE GROUP'S ORGANIZATION IN SYRIA HAS REMAINED INTACT. ALLEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE TEAM INVOLVED IN THE 1986 ATTEMPTED PAN AM HIJACKING IN KARACHI (LIKE THOSE INVOLVED IN THE ROME AND VIENNA AIRPORT BOMBINGS) CAME FROM SYRIA AS WELL, TO WHICH BLECHA ADDED THAT, ACCORDING TO KARACHI AUTHORITIES, THE MEN WHO ARMED THE FAILED HIJACKERS IN KARACHI SEEMED TO BE THE SAME ONES WHO HAD ARMED THE ABU NIDAL

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TERRORISTS IN VIENNA. CAUTIONING THAT MIDDLE EASTERN SOURCES FOR SUCH INFORMATION ARE NOT ALWAYS THE MOST TRUSTWORTHY, HE REPEATED THEIR DESCRIPTION OF BOTH SETS OF ARMS SELLERS AS MULTILINGUAL, DISPLAYING GOOD MANNERS, AND BEHAVING AS SOPHISTICATED "MEN OF THE WORLD." MEESE ASSURED BLECHA THAT ANY INFORMATION THAT US INTELLIGENCE SERVICES MIGHT DEVELOP ON THE ABU NIDAL MEMBERS TO BE TRIED IN VIENNA WOULD BE SHARED WITH THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

THE WALDHEIM DECISION

10. PASSING TO THE US DECISION TO PLACE KURT WALDHEIM ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VISA WATCH LIST, BLECHA SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD ABOUT THE DECISION JUST BEFORE THE MEETING WITH MEESE AND WAS "DEPRESSED" BY IT. MEESE EXPLAINED THAT THE DECISION HAD FOLLOWED A YEAR'S REVIEW, DURING WHICH WALDHEIM'S ATTORNEYS WERE ASKED TO PRESENT EVIDENCE IN HIS DEFENSE. HE NOTED THAT NEWS OF THE DECISION HAD BEEN RELAYED TO THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN VIENNA BEFORE THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. BLECHA REPLIED THAT THE DECISION WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE A SHOCK TO AUSTRIANS, AND REFERRED TO PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS WHICH HAD SHOWN THAT THE AUSTRIAN PEOPLE WERE MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS THE US THAN ANY OTHER EUROPEANS. MEESE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND REGRETTED ANY SHOCK WITH WHICH THE DECISION MIGHT BE GREETED, AND ASKED BLECHA TO TAKE BACK HIS PERSONAL REASSURANCES THAT THE DECISION WAS REQUIRED BY US LAW, SUPPORTED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN AND SECRETARY OF STATE SCHULZ, AND NOT INTENDED TO DAMPEN GOOD WILL BETWEEN THE US AND AUSTRIA, ADDING THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAD MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN A MANNER INTENDED TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE ADVERSE PUBLIC REACTION.

11. THIS MESSAGE WAS PREPARED AFTER ATTORNEY GENERAL MEESE'S DEPARTURE.

12. DAMASCUS MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

SWAEBE

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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