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TEXT
SUBJECT: AUSTRIA MEDIA REACTION

1. ON OCT. 28/29, MOST AUSTRIAN DAILIES CARRIED REPORTS ON PRESIDENT WALDHEIM'S PLANNED UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO TURKEY, ALLEGING THAT THE VISIT WAS RELOCATED TO ISTANBUL INSTEAD OF ANKARA TO UNDERLINE THE UNOFFICIAL CHARACTER OF THE VISIT. THIS IS ATTRIBUTED TO AN INTERVENTION BY SIX U.S. CONGRESSMEN, WHO ALLEGEDLY THREATENED TO VETO ANY ECONOMIC OR MILITARY SUPPORT FOR TURKEY IF AN OFFICIAL WALDHEIM VISIT TAKES PLACE. IN THIS CONTEXT, WALDHEIM TOLD THE DAILY "DIE PRESSE" THAT NO OFFICIAL ACT OF INTERVENTION HAD TAKEN PLACE. HE SAID SIMILAR ATTEMPTS WERE MADE BEFORE HIS VISIT TO THE VATICAN, BUT WITHOUT ANY EFFECT.

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2. ON OCT. 29, INDEPENDENT MASS-CIRCULATION DAILY "KURIER" (SATURDAY CIRC. 523,600) PUBLISHED A FRONT PAGE COMMENTARY ON THE WALDHEIM VISIT TO TURKEY BY DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR HANS RAUSCHER, WHO WROTE UNDER THE HEADING "CHEAP TRIUMPH":

UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE TO ASSUME THAT THE STORY IS TRUE. IT IS IN KEEPING WITH THE FACT THAT SOME AMERICAN POLITICIANS HAVE LOST ALL REASONABLE SENSE OF PROPORTION IN THE WALDHEIM CONTROVERSY... AN UGLY LITTLE EPISODE FOR WHICH NONE OF THOSE INVOLVED DESERVES CREDIT, LEAST OF ALL THOSE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GREAT DEMOCRACY AMERICA WHO ARE THIRSTING FOR CHEAP TRIUMPHS."

ON OCT. 31, THE NEW INDEPENDENT DAILY "DER STANDARD" CARRIED A P. 20 COMMENTARY ENTITLED "WHO DOES WALDHEIM SERVE?"

SO PRESIDENT WALDHEIM ... WILL NOT HAVE HIS FIRST LONGED-FOR STOPOVER IN A NATO COUNTRY IN ANKARA, BUT IN ISTANBUL. HE WILL NOT BE RECEIVED BY TURKISH HEAD OF STATE EVREN IN ANKARA, BUT IN ISTANBUL. WALDHEIM AND HIS FOREIGN MINISTER MOCK, WHO IS ACCOMPANYING HIM, SAY THAT DOES NOT BOTHER THEM.

THE AUSTRIAN REPUBLIC COULD ALSO SAY IT IS NOT BOTHERED.

BUT WHAT THE PRESIDENT IS DOING IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS TRAVEL DIPLOMACY CANNOT BE SHRUGGED OFF AS HIS PRIVATE MATTER, EVEN THOUGH THE STOPOVER IN TURKEY SERVES NO OTHER PURPOSE THAN EMBELLISHING **KURT WALDHEIM'S** CV. HIS EAGERNESS TO BE WELCOMED BY FOREIGN STATE REPRESENTATIVES SEEMS TO LEAD THE PRESIDENT TO PUT UP WITH MUCH THAT MOCK SHOULD NOT ACCEPT EITHER AS FOREIGN MINISTER OR AS DOMESTIC POLITICIAN...

WALDHEIM'S WORLDWIDE REPUTATION WILL NOT IMPROVE IF HE PROMISES TO STRIVE FOR THE EXTRADITION OF NAZI WAR CRIMINAL ALOIS BRUNNER FROM SYRIA, AS HE JUST DID. COULDN'T ONE INTERPRET THIS EFFORT -- WHICH IS, IN FACT, IN THE INTEREST OF AUSTRIA'S CREDIBILITY -- AS AN ATTEMPT ON WALDHEIM'S PART TO GET WORLDWIDE CONFIRMATION OF HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS CASE ... ? ...

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR AUSTRIA TO REGAIN CREDIBILITY. WHETHER THE AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT WILL TALK TO THE TURKISH PRESIDENT ON HIS RETURN FROM A STATE VISIT IS IRRELEVANT. IT IS ONLY IMPORTANT FOR WALDHEIM. SO WALDHEIM SHOULD DROP THE PLANNED STOPOVER IN TURKEY; HE SHOULD SERVE AUSTRIA, NOT HIS OWN INTEREST. O'CONNOR

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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