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ACTION EUR-01

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 OASY-00 DODE-00 EB-00 TEDE-00
INR-00 ADS-00 NSAE-00 SP-00 DRL-09
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O 290832Z JUL 96
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4171
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5352
INFO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEF: 09-0005

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USIS

USIA FOR WEU AND R/PM

STATE FOR EUR/AGS, INR/WEA AND INR/P, EUR/PA - ELISABETH
PRYOR

USDOC FOR 4220/0EURA/BFISHER/JLARSEN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: AU PREL PGOV
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN SPECIAL REPORT ON AN INTERVIEW WITH
JOHN KORNBUM IN "DIE PRESSE," JULY 26, 1996
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SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TRANSLATION OF AN INTERVIEW
WITH JOHN KORNBUM, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN
AFFAIRS IN THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, PUBLISHED IN THE
CONSERVATIVE QUALITY PAPER "DIE PRESSE" (CIRCULATION
100,000).

"NEUTRALITY -- AN ISSUE OF NATIONAL CONSENSUS"

2. "JOHN KORNBUM STARTED HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER IN 1964,
WAS PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF STATE DEPARTMENT SPECIALIST
FOR GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES AND SPENT MANY YEARS IN

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DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN BONN AND BERLIN. IN 1991, HE WAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO THE CSCE UNDER PRESIDENT BUSH AND HE WORKED IN VIENNA FOR THREE YEARS, UNTIL HE RETURNED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN 1994. HE IS CURRENTLY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN AFFAIRS."

3. DIE PRESSE: "IN AUSTRIA, THE OPPOSITION AGAINST NATO STANDS ON SHAKY GROUND. DOES THE UNITED STATES MAKE AUSTRIA'S NATO ENTRY CONTINGENT ON ANY CONDITIONS?"

KORNBLUM: "IN THIS CASE, THE U.S. DOES NOT HAVE ITS OWN INDEPENDENT POLICY, OF COURSE; THIS IS A QUESTION THE ALLIANCE HAS TO ANSWER. NATO IS IN A PHASE OF ADAPTATION, AND AUSTRIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE 'PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE,' IS PART OF THIS PROCESS. THE NORTH ATLANTIC
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ALLIANCE TRIES TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AS PART OF A BROADER EUROPEAN SECURITY ALLIANCE, AND WE HOPE THAT AUSTRIA WILL ASSUME A MAJOR PART IN IT."

P: "YOU KNOW NOT ONLY EUROPE, BUT ALSO AUSTRIA VERY WELL. CAN YOU, PERSONALLY, IMAGINE THAT THERE COULD BE ANY POSSIBLE CONCERNS AGAINST AUSTRIA JOINING IT?"

K: "I CANNOT IMAGINE THAT, BUT I HAVE TO BE VERY CAUTIOUS HERE. I KNOW THAT AN IMPORTANT DEBATE IS GOING ON IN AUSTRIA, AND I DON'T WANT TO INTERFERE. LET ME REPEAT THAT WE WANT A BROAD AND INTEGRATED SECURITY SYSTEM IN EUROPE. THERE ARE SEVERAL LEVELS, AND NATO EXPANSION IS ONE OF THEM. I AM SURE: ONCE AUSTRIA HAS FOUND A CONSENSUS, OTHER COUNTRIES WILL FIND ONE AS WELL."

P: "IS IT IMPERATIVE TO GIVE UP NEUTRALITY?"

K: "NEUTRALITY IS IN THIS CASE -- IF YOU WANT -- A QUESTION OF NATIONAL CONSENSUS, A QUESTION OF HOW AUSTRIA WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW SECURITY SYSTEM."

P: "THE MOST RECENT SPECIAL MISSION OF YOUR PREDECESSOR RICHARD HOLBROOKE IN BOSNIA WAS RECEIVED BY SOME WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SURPRISE. HAD IT BEEN COORDINATED WITH YOU?"

K: "OF COURSE THIS WAS COORDINATED WITH ME. WE HAD ARRIVED AT A POINT WHERE WE THOUGHT THAT A DRAMATIC STEP COULD BE USEFUL AND, AS WE SAW, IT WAS ALSO VERY EFFECTIVE. THE DECISION WAS TAKEN BASED ON MY
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RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE POLICY WE DEVELOPED HERE. AND WE
WILL KEEP USING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THE PEACE
PROCESS."

P: "WILL THERE BE FURTHER HOLBROOKE MISSIONS?"

K: "I DON'T KNOW. THERE COULD BE, BUT THIS IS NOT THE
QUESTION AT THE MOMENT. THE QUESTION IS HOW THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DAYTON TREATY PROCEEDS. THIS HAS
ALWAYS BEEN THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT FOR US. IT HAS NOT
BEEN POSSIBLE SO FAR TO REACH A CLEAR BREAK WITH
KARADZIC, AND WE THINK THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOW
ACHIEVED THAT."

P: "HOW SERIOUSLY CAN WE TAKE KARADZIC'S WITHDRAWAL? AS
WE KNOW, ALL PARTIES IN THIS CONFLICT HAVE MADE PROMISES
THEY DID NOT MEET."

K: "PARTICULARLY IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, A PROMISE IS
NOT ENOUGH. WE NOW HAVE A PAPER WITH SIGNATURES. THE
NEXT STEP IS TO MAKE SURE THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE INFLUENCE
ANY LONGER. WE ALSO STILL DEMAND THAT HE STANDS TRIAL IN

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THE HAGUE.

P: "BUT GENERAL MLADIC IS STILL THE HEAD OF THE ARMY?"

K: "YES, BUT WE WANT HIM TO APPEAR IN THE HAGUE."

P: "WHAT ABOUT THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTIONS? WILL
THEY REALLY BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14?"

K: "I AM SURE THAT THEY WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14, AND
OF COURSE WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO A CORRECT
PROCEDURE. WE COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH THE OSCE TO ENSURE
THAT. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE TECHNICAL PREPARATIONS ARE
PROCEEDING AS PLANNED."

P: "CRITICS SAY THAT FOR REASONS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION CAMPAIGN, THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED
TO ACCEPT ELECTIONS IN BOSNIA EVEN IF THEY TURN INTO A
FARCE."

K: "THE ENTIRE CONCEPT OF THE ELECTIONS WAS DRAFTED ON
THE BASIS OF VERY THOROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES AND EXPERTS. THEY ALL AGREED THAT IT WAS
BETTER TO CARRY OUT THE ELECTIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE,
TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT.
WAITING TOO LONG MIGHT INVOLVE THE DANGER THAT IT NEVER
COMES TO FREE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. TODAY, I AM
CONVINCED MORE THAN EVER THAT THIS WAS THE RIGHT
DECISION."

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P: "THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE
ARE CURRENTLY OVERSHADOWED BY THE HELMS-BURTON LAWS AND
THE IMPLIED SANCTIONS VIS-A-VIS THIRD COUNTRIES ..."

K: "A LAW SUCH AS HELMS-BURTON IS A BURDEN, BUT IT IS
IRRELEVANT FOR THE RELATIONS. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW,

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THERE HAS BEEN A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR QUITE SOME TIME WITH
A FEW OF OUR ALLIES, WHO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH SO-
CALLED OUTLAW STATES LIKE IRAN, IRAQ, LIBYA, AND CUBA.
THEY THINK THERE STILL OUGHT TO BE DIALOGUE, INVESTMENT,
AND EVEN SUPPORT. WE DO NOT SHARE THIS OPINION."

END TRANSLATION.
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