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SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.53/83, FOR 3/18/83
1. FOREIGN POLICY: IN A LECTURE TO THE AUSTRIAN FOREIGN
POLICY ASSOCIATION, MAR. 17, SOCIALIST FLOOR LEADER
HEINZ FISCHER SAID THE SOCIALIST PARTY WILL CONTINUE TO
SEEK CONSEN-F, SUS IN FOREIGN POLICY, BUT NOT AT THE PRICE
OF SACRIFICING ITS OWN SPECIFIC VIEWS ON SUCH MATTERS AS
DISARMAMENT, THE MIDDLE EAST, DETENTE, POLAND AND
THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. FOREIGN POLICY AS A LONG-RANGE
MATTER SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ELECTIDN
CAMPAIGN, HE SAID. DISCUSSING SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL
ISSUES, FISCHER UNDERLINED THE ESSENTIAL NEED FOR
STABILIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS,
ADDING THAT DISARMAMENT IS NECESSARY BECAUSE THE BALANCE
OF TERROR CANNOT BE CONSIDERED A STABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS
IN THE LONG RUN. IF THE U.S.-PROPOSED ZERO OPTION CANNOT
BE REALIZED, A SOLUTION COMING CLOSEST TO IT WOULD BE
BEST, FISCHER FOUND. REGARDING THE CSCE REVIEW,

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FISCHER REGRETTED THAT THE MADRID CONFERENCE HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A KIND OF SECOND-RANK THEATER OF WAR FOR DEBATING THE CONTROVERSIES BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS. HE ADDED THE HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE AGREEMENT ON A FINAL DOCUMENT WHICH CONTAINS AT LEAST A MINIMUM OF SUBSTANCE. AS FAR AS THE MIDDLE EAST IS CONCERNED, FISCHER CONSIDERED THE REAGAN PLAN ONE OF SEVERAL POSSIBLE STARTING POINTS FOR TALKS AMONG ALL PARTIES INVOLVED. HE NOTED WITH REGRET ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PALESTINIANS, BUT ALSO CRITICIZED A CERTAIN LACK OF REALISM SHOWN BY SOME PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES. FINALLY, FISCHER NOTED THAT AUSTRIAN RELATIONS WITH BOTH SUPERPOWERS ARE GOOD. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MAR. 18)

2. HUNGARIAN CONTACT: A BURGENLAND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT DELEGATION HEADED BY GOVERNOR THEODOR KERY WAS IN SOPRON, MAR. 11, TO DISCUSS THE PROJECT OF A BORDER-AREA LIGNITE-FUELED POWER STATION WITH HUNGARIAN ENERGY STATE SECRETARY SANDOR KAPOLYI. THIS LATEST ROUND OF TALKS CENTERED PRIMARILY ON THE POLLUTION ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT. ANOTHER AGENDA ITEM WAS A PROJECTED EXCHANGE OF NATURAL GAS ACROSS THE BORDER. (BURGENLAND WEEKLIES BF AND BVZ, MAR. 16)

3. CAMBODIA EXHIBIT: FOREIGN MINISTER WILLIBALD PAHR OPENED AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL-SPONSORED VIENNA EXHIBIT OF "PICTURES FROM CAMBODIA" MAR. 17. THE PICTURES REFLECTING THE PLIGHT OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE CONFIRM THE AUSTRIAN POSITION THAT NEITHER THE RED KHMER NOR THE CURRENT FOREIGN-IMPDED REGIME ARE ACCEPTABLE AS THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNTRY IN THE U.N., PAHR NOTED IN HIS OPENING REMARKS. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MAR. 18)

4. AUSTRIAN NAZI: ACCORDING TO THE LONDON "TIMES" THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT ASSAD IS STILL PROTECTING AUSTRIAN NAZI ALOIS BRUNNER, AN ERSTWHILE ASSISTANT OF ADOLF EICHMANN IN THE ANNIHILATION OF JEWS. BRUNNER HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN LIVING IN DAMASCUS UNDER THE ALIAS OF GEORG FISCHER SINCE 1958. (SOCIALIST AZ, MAR. 18)

5. DIPLOMATIC NOTES: HERBERT TRAXL WAS APPOINTED AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA. THOUGH A CAREER DIPLOMAT, TRAXL LAST SERVED IN THE CHANCELLORY AS ASSISTANT TO STATE SECRETARY FERDINAND LACINA. (SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, MAR. 18)

6. COMMUNIST PARTY: IN A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN VIENNA, MAR. 17, AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN FRANZ MUHRI SAID HIS PARTY'S CAMPAIGN TARGET IS TO INCREASE ITS STRENGTH IN TERMS OF VOTES AND A "POSSIBLE" RE-ENTRY INTO PARLIAMENT. MUHRI CLAIMED THE KPO IS REALLY THE ONLY GENUINE LEFTIST OPPOSITION IN AUSTRIA BECAUSE TOLLMANN'S UNITED GREEN GROUP IS BOURGEOIS AND THE LEFT-CENTER ALSO DOES NOT OFFER ANY REAL ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP. MUHRI ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT MEDIA NEGLECT OF THE COMMUNISTS WHILE OTHER EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS GET MUCH ATTENTION. (COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME, MAR. 18)

7. CHANCELLORSHIP: THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUSTRIAN TRADE

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UNION FEDERATION PRESIDENT ANTON BENYA EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT HE WOULD ASK KREISKY TO HEAD ALSO A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN CASE OF A SOCIALIST LOSS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY HAS FOUND A STRONG ECHO IN SPO TOP RANKS. MINISTERS KURT STEYRER, ALFRED DALLINGER AND HERBERT SALCHER AS WELL AS FLOOR LEADER HEINZ FISCHER INDICATED THEY WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A BENYA REQUEST. MEANWHILE, CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY REITERATED IN BOTH AN INTERVIEW AND A CAMPAIGN ADDRESS THAT HE WILL NOT LET ANYBODY PERSUADE HIM TO STAY IN OFFICE AS A COALITION CHANCELLOR. THE LOSS OF THE MAJORITY WOULD BE THE SIGNAL FOR HIM TO RETIRE, HE ADDED. (INDEPENDENT KRONEN-ZEITUNG, SOCIALIST AZ, MAR. 18)

8. OVP CANDIDATES: PEOPLE'S PARTY CHAIRMAN ALOIS MOCK ON MAR. 17 PRESENTED HIS TWO CHOICES AS TICKET LEADERS FOR THE SECOND-ROUND SEAT COUNT - PARTY YOUTH LEADER OTHMAR KARAS AND SALZBURG BUSINESSWOMAN HELGA RABL-STADLER - TO THE PUBLIC. BOTH CANDIDATES EXPRESSED OPINIONS ON VARIOUS TOPICS NOT FULLY IDENTICAL WITH THE OFFICIAL PARTY LINE. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, SEMI-OFFICIAL WIENER ZEITUNG, ET AL., MAR. 18)

9. COMMENT --- COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME OF MAR. 18 SEES IN THE BACK-AND-FORTH OVER KREISKY AS A COALITION CHANCELLOR PART OF A DOUBLE-PRONGED SOCIALIST SCARE STRATEGY. VOTER SUPPORT IS TO BE DRUMMED UP BY THE SPECTER OF A "MOCK-TOLLMANN-GOTZ COALITION" AND FEAR OF A POSSIBLE LOSS OF KREISKY, THE PAPER FINDS. POLANSKY

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