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USIA

USIA FOR EU, P/RM, P/FW, P/FN, P/RWE, VOA/PE, P/P; WHITE
HOUSE FOR NSC; SECSTATE FOR EUR/CE; EUR/P; PM; INR/RWE;
SECDEF FOR USDP AND ISA DSAA; DIA FOR DC-4A; CIA HQ
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECPAO/POLAD//;
USAREUR//AEAPA/POLAD//; USAF//PA/POLAD//; USNMR SHAPE;
USMISSION FOR PAA; USIS LONDON; AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS FOR
USEC-PAO; USMISSION GENEVA FOR PAO AND USDEL NST; GENEVA

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ALSO PASS ACDA FOR TERRY SHROEDER; USIS FRANKFURT; USIS HAMBURG; P&C MOSCOW; AMEMBASSY ROME; AMEMBASSY PARIS - POL/PABST; AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM FOR CDE; AMCONSUL STUTTGART FOR CONGEN GRIFFIN; USDEL MBFR VIENNA; HQ BALTAP FOR PIO.
E.O. 12356: N/A

TEXT

SUBJECT: GERMAN MEDIA REACTION REPORT, 1:00 P.M.

FOLLOWING IS REVIEW OF GERMAN NEWSPAPERS OF FEBRUARY 27, 1986

CONTENTS:

- A. DISARMAMENT (CONT'D)
- B. EGYPT
- C. NAZI WAR CRIMINAL

A. DISARMAMENT (CONT'D)

A. THEO SOMMER SAID IN HIS LEAD EDITORIAL IN THE INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL WEEKLY DIE ZEIT OF HAMBURG:

"HAS WORLD POLICY REACHED A TURNING POINT?... FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME IT IS PERMISSIBLE TO BE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC....

"THE SITUATION IS FAVORABLE FOR THREE REASONS. FIRST, WE ARE EXPERIENCING A PHASE WHICH IS RELATIVELY DEVOID OF TENSIONS. SECOND, THE ECONOMIC NECESSITIES IN EAST AND WEST POINT IN ONE DIRECTION.... AND THIRD, IT IS DAWNING ON MORE AND MORE PEOPLE THAT THE TRADITIONAL DOGMA OF DETERRENCE IS BOUND TO DRIVE HUMANITY INTO OBLIVION UNLESS IT IS STOPPED BY POLITICAL REASON.

"INTERNATIONAL POLICY IS GOING THROUGH A RELATIVELY QUIET PHASE.... NOBODY CAN DENY THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON ARE FREER OF TENSION THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN A LONG TIME. DESPITE CONTINUING DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AND INTERESTS CONCERNING AFGHANISTAN AND NICARAGUA, AND DESPITE MANY CRISIS SPOTS IN THE THIRD WORLD, THERE IS NO DISPUTE WHICH MIGHT PUSH AMERICA AND RUSSIA INTO DIRECT CONFRONTATION....

"WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT, THOUGH, ARE THE ECONOMIC NECESSITIES. THIS NECESSITY, IF ANYTHING, WILL PERSUADE THE TWO ADVERSARIES IN WORLD POLITICS TO CONTAIN THEIR STRUGGLE AND LIMIT THE GROWTH OF THEIR MILITARY ARSENALS. THE CONSTRICTING FORCES OF THIS NECESSITY ARE MAKING THEMSELVES FELT NOT ONLY ON THE MOSKVA BUT ALSO ON THE POTOMAC....

"WITHOUT INVESTMENT GOODS FROM THE WEST GORBACHEV WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO REALIZE HIS (ECONOMIC REFORM) PROGRAM. HE NEEDS COOPERATION WITH WESTERN EXPORTERS, WESTERN KNOW-HOW, AND TRAINING FACILITIES IN

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THE SOVIET UNION MANNED BY WESTERN EXPERTS.... AND HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE DO WITHOUT WESTERN LOANS.... IF GORBACHEV WANTS TO AVOID THAT THE POWER SITUATION IN THE WORLD DEVELOPS UNFAVORABLY FOR THE USSR, HE WILL NOT UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 07 BONN 06350

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ONLY HAVE TO LOOK FOR COEXISTENCE WITH THE WEST BUT ALSO FOR COOPERATION. THIS COOPERATION WILL HAVE TO AFFECT ALL AREAS, INCLUDING DISARMAMENT, WHICH IS A FIELD WHERE ENORMOUS FUNDS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR DOMESTIC IMPROVEMENT.

"THE SITUATION IS SIMILAR IN THE U.S.... THE BOOM WAS ACHIEVED ON BORROWED MONEY; IT WAS MADE POSSIBLE AT THE EXPENSE OF DEFICITS AMOUNTING TO SOME 200 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY. WITH HIS MILITARY KEYNESIANISM OF SORTS, RONALD REAGAN, THE CONSERVATIVE, HAS BECOME THE ONE PERSON IN U.S. HISTORY TO INCUR THE HIGHEST DEBT.

"WHEN REAGAN ENTERED THE WHITE HOUSE FIVE YEARS AGO, PEOPLE IN HIS VICINITY HELD THE NAIVE BELIEF THAT AMERICA COULD SIMPLY 'ARM THE SOVIET UNION TO DEATH.' TODAY, ONLY A FEW BLOCK-HEADED IDEOLOGUES IN WASHINGTON STILL BELIEVE THAT. ALL OTHERS HAVE UNDERSTOOD BY NOW THAT NOT EVEN THE U.S. IS RICH ENOUGH TO AFFORD BOTH A MILITARY ARMS BUILDUP AND CIVILIAN PROSPERITY.

"THE U.S. BUDGET DEFICIT IS NOW TO BE CUT DRAMATICALLY.... THE PENTAGON'S BUDGET WILL NO LONGER BE EXEMPT FROM CUTS.... NOT EVEN THE PROPOSED FIGURES FOR REAGAN PET PROJECT, SDI, WILL REMAIN UNTOUCHED....

"BUT IN ADDITION TO FINANCIAL NECESSITIES, EAST AND WEST WILL HAVE TO START LOOKING AT THINGS DIFFERENTLY.... THE PAST FORTY YEARS OUGHT TO HAVE TAUGHT EVERYBODY THAT A CONTINUED ARMS BUILDUP DOES NOT MEAN INCREASED SECURITY FOR ANYBODY.... IT IS NECESSARY NOW TO DO SOME RETHINKING. THE NEW SOVIET PARTY

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PLATFORM STILL RAVES ABOUT 'PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE'; HOWEVER, IT NO LONGER REFERS TO THIS CONCEPT IN THE SENSE OF A 'SPECIFIC FORM OF CLASS STRUGGLE,' BUT AS A CONDITION FOR SURVIVAL IN THE NUCLEAR AGE.

"AND IN THE WEST, MANY HAVE STARTED TO SEE THAT POLITICS MUST NOT ONLY CONSIDER THE WORST IMAGINABLE CASE BUT HAS TO BE GEARED TOWARD THE COURSE AN ISSUE IS LIKELY TO TAKE. AND THEY HAVE STARTED TO REALIZE THAT THE COURSE OF EVENTS CAN BE INFLUENCED BY ONE'S OWN CONDUCT.

"WHAT MATTERS TODAY IS MAKING PEACE CONCEIVABLE...."

B. DEFENSE MINISTER MANFRED WOERNER CONTRIBUTED A LENGTHY ARTICLE TO THE INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL WEEKLY DIE ZEIT OF HAMBURG. ON THE EVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL "WEHRKUNDE" MEETING IN MUNICH, WOERNER DISCUSSED THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE (SDI) AND THE NECESSITY OF A EUROPEAN DEFENSE INITIATIVE (EDI). HE SAID:
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"IN THE DEBATE OVER SDI, EARLY ONE THE BONN GOVERNMENT CLEARLY STAKED OUT ITS POSITIONS. IT CONSIDERS THE SDI PROGRAM JUSTIFIED.... IT ALSO CONSIDERS IT POLITICALLY NECESSARY.... AND IT CONSIDERS THE PROGRAM TO BE IN THE WEST'S OVERALL SECURITY INTEREST.... IT WAS ALL THE EASIER FOR THE BONN GOVERNMENT TO COME TO THIS UNCONDITIONALLY POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE SDI RESEARCH PROGRAM BECAUSE IT BECAME CLEAR, AS THE GOAL OF THE RESEARCH WAS BEING DEFINED, THAT THE EUROPEAN CONCERNS WILL BE CONSIDERED ADEQUATELY.... THE INCLUSION IN THE U.S. RESEARCH APPROACH OF THE NUCLEAR THREAT TO WESTERN EUROPE HAS ALSO MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE BONN GOVERNMENT TO REJECT A VARIETY OF CONCEPTS ON STARTING A SPACE-BASED EUROPEAN ANTI-MISSILE SYSTEM (EDI)....

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"SDI WILL CONTINUE TO DOMINATE THE SECURITY POLICY DEBATE IN OUR COUNTRY, TOO. THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE BECAUSE SDI IS THE FIRST CONCEPT TO ATTEMPT A BREACH WITH THE SYSTEM OF MUTUAL RETALIATION THROUGH NUCLEAR OFFENSIVE WEAPONS.... IT THUS IS AN ATTEMPT AT GIVING A SUBSTANTIALLY NEW ANSWER TO THE MORAL LEGITIMATION OF NUCLEAR DEFENSE.

"BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ALMOST EXCLUSIVE PREOCCUPATION OF THE POLITICAL DEBATE WITH SDI ALSO POSES A PROBLEM BECAUSE IT PUSHES ASIDE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MILITARY THREAT."

WOERNER THEN LISTED THE SOVIET ARSENAL OF SHORT- AND MEDIUM-RANGE NUCLEAR WEAPONS (SS-20, SS-21, SS-12/22, AND SS-23) AND SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS CONSTANTLY MODERNIZING THESE MISSILES, THUS INCREASING THE QUANTITY OF THE NUCLEAR THREAT TO WESTERN EUROPE. AT THE SAME TIME, THESE WEAPONS ARE DESIGNED TO CARRY CONVENTIONAL AND CHEMICAL WARHEADS, WHICH MEANS THAT "THE SOVIET UNION IS GAINING A NEW QUALITY OF ITS CONVENTIONAL OPTION WHICH MIGHT DRAMATICALLY INFLUENCE THE STRUCTURE OF POWER IN EUROPE." WOERNER WENT ON TO SAY:

"IN THE MEDIUM TERM, NATO WILL THUS BE CONFRONTED WITH A THREAT THAT IS DIFFERENT NOT ONLY WITH REGARD TO ITS QUANTITY, BUT ALSO TO ITS QUALITY. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS NOT THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET CAPACITY. SIMULTANEOUSLY TO ITS EFFORTS TO INCREASE IN OFFENSIVE OPTION, THE SOVIET UNION ALSO INCREASED ITS EFFORTS IN THE DEFENSIVE AREA TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT WE WILL ALSO SEE A CHANGE IN QUALITY IN THAT AREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE....

"DEFENSES AGAINST MISSILES ARE REQUIRED AND
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TECHNOLOGICALLY FEASIBLE. THE FIRST STAGE IN THIS EFFORT WOULD CERTAINLY BE IMPROVING EXISTING SYSTEMS (INCLUDING THE 'PATRIOT' MISSILE).... THE NEXT STAGE WOULD RESULT FROM THE REPLACEMENT OF OLDER AIR DEFENSE MISSILES (SUCH AS 'HAWK' AND 'ROLAND 1). POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS TO THESE SYSTEMS WOULD BE ONLY SUCH SYSTEMS WHICH GENERALLY ARE ABLE TO FIGHT MISSILES OF ALL KINDS" (SUCH AS THE ROLLING AIRFRAME MISSILE WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED BY THE U.S. AND THE FRG).

WOERNER WENT ON TO SAY: "BUT WE CANNOT AND WILL NOT STOP AT THIS RELATIVELY 'CONSERVATIVE' SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. IN THIS AREA, TOO, THE FUTURE WILL BELONG TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES.... THIS IS ALL THE MORE TRUE BECAUSE IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT IN THE FRAMEWORK OF SDI RESEARCH...THERE WILL BE FINDINGS IN THE AREA OF FIGHTING MISSILES IN THE TERMINAL PHASE OF THEIR FLIGHT. THESE FINDINGS WOULD BE DIRECTLY APPLICABLE TO A POSSIBLE GROUND-BASED OR AIR-BORNE AIR DEFENSE. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN SETTING UP A MISSILE DEFENSE IN EUROPE AND SDI. BUT OTHERWISE, THE PROJECT OF A EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENSE IS INDEPENDENT FROM SDI. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE TACKLED EVEN IF THERE WERE NO SDI, OR IF SDI WERE NOT REALIZED."

WOERNER THEN STATED THAT FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, A EUROPEAN MISSILE DEFENSE WOULD NOT VIOLATE THE 1972 ABM TREATY BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID:

"MISSILE DEFENSE IN EUROPE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ISOLATED ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPLETELY NEW OPTIONS; IT IS THE ORGANIC GROWTH OF AN EXPANDED AIR DEFENSE ON THE BASIS OF MULTI-FUNCTIONAL WEAPON SYSTEMS.

"THIS ALSO ANSWERS THE QUESTION AS TO WHAT WOULD BE THE ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUCH AN ACTIVITY. NATO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INTEGRATED AIR DEFENSE OF EUROPE. THEREFORE, IT WOULD ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE WITH REGARD TO EXPANDING AIR DEFENSE. THUS, THE U.S. WILL AUTOMATICALLY PARTICIPATE IN EXPANDING THIS AIR DEFENSE. BUT IT (THE U.S.) IS NOT ONLY AFFECTED BY THIS, IT ALSO HAS AN INTEREST IN IT....

"FOR THE TIME BEING, EUROPE DOES NOT NEED AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN DEFENSE INITIATIVE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION FROM NUCLEAR MEANS OF ATTACK. THIS PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED EXCLUSIVELY BY SDI; THEREFORE, IT IS TO BE VIEWED IN A LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE. WHAT NATO NEEDS FIRST AND FOREMOST IS AN AIR DEFENSE WHICH IS LARGELY GROUND-BASED AND AUGMENTED BY AN ANTI-MISSILE CAPACITY. IT WILL THUS BE ABLE TO DEFEND MILITARY TARGETS AGAINST UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 07 BONN 06350

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A 'CONVENTIONAL STRIKE' BY THE WARSAW PACT AND PREVENT AN UNDERMINING OF THE NATO STRATEGY."

B. EGYPT

1. COVERAGE

THE RIOTS IN CAIRO WERE THE NUMBER-ONE NEWS AND EDITORIAL TOPIC. MOST PAPERS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT EGYPT'S POLITICAL FUTURE.

2. HEADLINES

"BLOODY RIOTS IN EGYPT, ARMY FIGHTS POLICE, PRESIDENT MUBARAK REFERS TO 'STAB IN BACK'" (DIE WELT)

"HEAVY RIOTS IN CAIRO -- ARMY USES TANKS AGAINST RIOTERS" (SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG)

"TANKS USED IN CAIRO -- LUXURY HOTELS ABLAZE" (NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG)

"CAIRO: TANKS AND HELICOPTERS USED AGAINST RIOTING POLICE" (WESTFAELISCHE RUNDSCHAU)

"CAIRO ABLAZE -- 8,000 RIOTING POLICEMEN, 300 PERSONS INJURED, 15 DEAD, HOTELS ABLAZE, PEACE IN DANGER, WILL MUBARAK BE TOPPLED?" (BILD ZEITUNG)

3. TEXT

A. THE CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT OF BONN CARRIED THE FOLLOWING FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL BY PETER M. RANKE:

"THE HEAVY RIOTS IN CAIRO WERE INITIATED BY PARAMILITARY POLICE WHOSE MISSION IS TO GUARD MINISTRIES, BANKS AND EMBASSIES. THEY USED TO BE CONSIDERED AS BEING VERY RELIABLE. THEY HAVE RIOTED NOT

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ONLY BECAUSE OF ALLEGED PLANS TO EXTEND THEIR TERMS OF SERVICE BUT BECAUSE THEY HAVE SEEN DAY BY DAY HOW RICH PEOPLE LIVE. REPORTS ON CASES OF CORRUPTION THAT LED TO THE ARREST OF FORMER ECONOMICS MINISTER MUSTAFA SAID MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE RIOTS.

"FAILURE OF PRESIDENT MUBARAK TO PREVAIL MIGHT MEAN TAKEOVER BY THE MILITARY, THE END OF THE DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT AND OF FREE ECONOMY IN EGYPT, AND THE END OF PEACE WITH ISRAEL.... ONE REASON FOR THE RIOTS IS AGITATION BY LEFTISTS AND BY ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS IN VIEW OF THE DEEP HOPELESSNESS OF THE BROAD MASSES.... CALLS FOR AN EGYPTIAN KHOMEINI OR FOR A NEW GAMAL ABD EL NASSER MAY BE ANTICIPATED. EGYPT NO LONGER IS A STABLE COUNTRY."

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B. THE INDEPENDENT/LIBERAL SUEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG OF MUNICH CARRIED THE FOLLOWING REPORT FROM CAIRO BY HEIKO FLOTTAU:

"THE QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER PRESIDENT MUBARAK AND THE ARMY WILL SUCCEED IN BRINGING THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY QUICKLY UNDER CONTROL. ANOTHER QUESTION IS WHERE THE ARMY REALLY STANDS AND WHOSE ORDERS IT WILL OBEY.

"WHAT POSITION WILL BE TAKEN BY FIELD MARSHAL ABU GHAZALA, THE DEFENSE MINISTER?.... HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE GRAY EMINENCE OF EGYPTIAN POLITICS AND AMERICA'S MAN IN EGYPT. WILL HE SUPPORT HIS BELEAGUERED PRESIDENT (MUBARAK) OR WILL HE, ON THE PATTERN OF PAKISTAN'S ZIA UL-HAQ, TAKE OVER AND PROVIDE FOR EVEN CLOSER TIES WITH AMERICA, THUS DRAWING EVEN FURTHER AWAY FROM THE ARAB CAMP?

"PEACE WITH ISRAEL MAY INDEED BE UNPOPULAR (IN EGYPT). IN ANY CASE, IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE EGYPTIANS

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HAVE NOT YET DIGESTED THE FACT THAT THEIR SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL HAS ISOLATED THEM POLITICALLY IN THE ARAB WORLD.

"THE ALL-TOO PRO-WESTERN POLICY PURSUED BY (FORMER PRESIDENT) ANWAR EL SADAT UPROOTED THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE POLITICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND MADE THEM DEPENDENT ON THE AMERICANS. ALTHOUGH LARGE PARTS OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE HAD APPRECIATED THAT POLICY MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS POLICY OF DRAWING CLOSER TO MOSCOW, AS PURSUED BY GAMAL ABD EL NASSER, TOO CLOSE EMBRACEMENT BY THE U.S. HAS, IN THE LONG RUN, BEEN GOOD ONLY FOR A FEW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES."

C. THE LEFT-OF-CENTER FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU CARRIED THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL:

"THE ECONOMIC SITUATION (IN EGYPT) IS SO CATASTROPHIC THAT A TINY SPARK CAN CAUSE AN EXPLOSION.... CHANCES THAT THE PRESENT REGIME WILL SURVIVE ARE RATHER POOR.... THIS SITUATION IS BOUND TO GIVE RISE TO CONCERN IN ALL MODERATE ARAB COUNTRIES AS WELL AS IN ISRAEL AND IN THE U.S.... FOR THE TIME BEING, MUBARAK SEEMS TO HAVE THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL, BUT THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF A GATHERING STORM."

D. INDEPENDENT DER TAGESSPIEGEL OF WEST BERLIN SAID IN A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL THAT THIS IS THE MOST SERIOUS CRISIS FACED BY EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT MUBARAK. POVERTY IN CAIRO, A CITY OF 14 MILLION, HAS FOSTERED THE CAUSE OF RADICAL FUNDAMENTALISTS.

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E.O. 12356: N/A

SUBJECT: GERMAN MEDIA REACTION REPORT, 1:00 P.M.

E. "THE INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE BERLINER MORGENPOST SAID:

"CONSIDERING AN INCREASE IN THE COUNTRY'S POPULATION

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BY ONE MILLION ANNUALLY, MUBARAK, LIKE HIS PREDECESSORS, HAS REASON TO SPEAK WHEN THE STANDARD OF LIVING DECLINES ONLY SLOWLY. IN THE FACE OF SUCH SOCIAL DYNAMITE, IT IS EASY FOR ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS TO SET THINGS AFIRE."

C. NAZI WAR CRIMINAL

THE INDEPENDENT DER TAGESSPIEGEL OF WEST BERLIN CARRIED A REPORT FROM JERUSALEM BY URI SAHM ON THE BACKGROUND OF AND PREPARATIONS FOR WASHINGTON'S EXTRADITION OF UKRAINIAN-BORN IVAN DEMYANYUK, WHO IS CHARGED WITH HAVING COMMITTED ATROCITIES IN THE FORMER NAZI DEATH CAMP OF TREBLINKA. THE PAPER SAID:

"IN 1981, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE BATTISTI REVOKED DEMYANYUK'S U.S. CITIZENSHIP, FOLLOWING THE REVELATION OF HIS CRIMES.... APPEALS AGAINST HIS EXTRADITION DELAYED THE PROCESS FOR TWO YEARS. AFTER APPROVAL OF HIS EXTRADITION BY AUTHORITIES AT VARIOUS LEVELS AND THE SIGNING BY SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ OF AN ORDER TO EXTRADITE HIM, ALL THAT IS NEEDED NOW IS AN ISRAELI AIRPLANE TO TAKE HIM NONSTOP TO TEL AVIV... HIS TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO ASSUME THE STYLE OF THAT AGAINST ADOLF EICHMANN IN 1962." CATHERMAN

END OF MESSAGE

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