

Denounce U.S. action against Waldheim

Speaking before a select group of journalists in Bonn, West Germany, June 30, Austrian anti-Nazi resistance leader Fritz Molden denounced the actions of the United States, in placing Austrian President Kurt Waldheim on the "watch list" as a Nazi war criminal.

Molden was responding to a question placed by *Executive Intelligence Review* correspondent Mark Burdman, about his views toward U.S. Justice Department actions, not only against Waldheim, but also German-born space scientist Arthur Rudolph, and others.

Molden speaks with considerable authority; he had been the official liaison of the Austrian resistance to American intelligence during World War II.

He said: "I personally am unhappy with this 'watch list.' I think we see a weak administration in the United States, open to a tremendous amount of pressure. There is an election next year in America. Take the case of Robert Dole [Republican senator from Kansas], a possible candidate for the presidency. Senator Dole wrote a letter to Attorney General Meese, asking him to put Mr. Waldheim on the 'watch list.' letter was released the same afternoon, from the Dole headquarters, and was published in hundreds of newspapers. This is a clear case of an administration which has gone through the Bitburg affair, and which is too tired to fight. It has lost its majority in the Senate."

"Anyway," he stressed, "Austria is a small country. So, who cares?"

Following this, Austrian Ambassador to West Germany Dr. Friedrich Bauer pointed to the "psychological feeling in Austria, which has always regarded itself as a valuable member of the Western world, and which had always been attacked mainly from the East, for its aid to refugees from the East. But now, two-thirds of Austrians are entirely perturbed, because they are subjected to attacks from Western friends. This is hard to digest."

Later, he added: "The American action in the Waldheim case violates the juridical tradition and history of all of Europe, from the northern tip of the United Kingdom, to the southern part of Sicily. We don't

In his general presentation to the press, Fritz Molden had stressed that Waldheim had become the victim of a powerful, and amazingly successful, international media campaign,

which had made of him a "symbol figure." The symbol, however, had nothing to do with the reality. Not only was Waldheim "not a Nazi, not an anti-Semite, and not a war criminal," but he had personally been attacked by the Nazis, in documents written by Nazi authorities, as coming from a family too much involved in "Christian" activities.

Molden is now one of three ambassadors-at-large for the Austrian government on the Waldheim case, and has recently been to Scandinavia, Great Britain, and other countries in this capacity. He reported that while the anti-Waldheim sentiment is strong, and sometimes even fanatical, in Scandinavia, Holland, and Belgium, matters are different in Britain, where the government privately "is totally on the side of Waldheim," and where the prevailing belief is that "no one is guilty, without that guilt being proven."

Clark in Vienna gives different signal

On July 9, there finally came some indication that not everyone around President Reagan is happy with the U.S. Justice Department. At the Alpbacher, Austria U.S.-West Europe Dialogue Congress July 9, former National Security Adviser William Clark, attending as the personal envoy of Ronald Reagan, unexpectedly proposed this toast: "I raise my glass to the well-being of two great Presidents, of two great nations—President Waldheim and President Reagan." In his opening speech, Clark stressed: "The Austrians and their government are today just as warmly received, in the hearts of Americans, as they always were."

Before this point, there was only growing tension between Austria and the United States over the Waldheim affair. On July 3, the U.S. Embassy held a reception in Vienna, Austria, to commemorate the U.S. Constitution's 200th "birthday," to which the Austrian government sent only low-level representation.

According to unimpeachable sources, at least one U.S. official at this reception made no secret of the fact that the State Department is not satisfied with Waldheim being on the "watch list," and is shooting for the Austrian President to resign. This official was quietly pressuring for Austrian influentials to "keep a low profile and distance yourselves from Waldheim."

As one Austrian source told *EIR*, however, "We cannot do this. What will be the price *next* year, for buying these people's would be an extorted admission of guilt not only of Waldheim, and not only of all Austrians, but of all of German-speaking Central Europe. . . . He will not resign."

Immediately before the July 3 reception in Austria, while Waldheim was visiting Jordan during the week of June 29, the U.S. ambassador refused to attend an official Jordanian government reception held for the Austrian President in Amman. *EIR* has received one report, that King Hussein is seriously considering not inviting the U.S. government to future Jordanian government receptions.