



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

Preserving American Jewish History

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992

Box 86, Folder 6, NBC "Holocaust" - Austria, 1979.



Cyma:

Here's Austria.

Pls. note that sheets
w/ Anti-Def. L. should
have their heading & record
numbers erased before
copies are made. Some
of these are repeats of
what you already have.

AUSTRIA--A NATION MOVED

"Shown almost exactly 41 years after Austria, subverted from within by its own sizable Nazi Party, was forcibly swallowed up into the greater Reich, Holocaust rivited the country's biggest-ever radio-TV audience," reported the Christian Science Monitor four days after the last episode was aired.

The film sparked a re-examination of the nation's past,
But the way in which the ~~huge audience~~ ^{country} responded to Holocaust drew contradictory interpretations in the foreign press's coverage of the series.

"Holocaust Moves Austrian Viewers," wrote the Washington Post, while the Jewish Telegraphic Agency found a "Mixed Reaction to 'Holocaust' Film." Variety magazine told its readers that "Austria Reacts Mostly 'Favorable' To 'Holocaust': 13% Negative," but the New York Times correspondent in

Vienna thought that. "Many Austrians Seem to Bristle at TV 'Holocaust'." *ad the Religious News Service found "Austria Not Sympathetic to any N. H."*
Unarguably, the showing of the series on the government owned ORF

television and radio network touched off a major national debate about the Nazi era. It sparked a new interest in the horrors of the past among the Austrian young, led to the first serious teaching about the era in the nation's schools, and brought about a wide ranging set of responses in the press and from national politicians.

---THE-FIGURES

----Shown-in-uninterrupted-installments-on-prime-time-on-March-1,-2,-3-and-4,--
was watched by
1979,--the-entire-story/--2,200,000-viewers,-or-44%-of-the-population-(as--
compared-with-29%-in-Germany):--Fifty-percent-of-the-population,-or-2.9-----
million-people,-saw-at-least-one-installment.----- -

----Officials-at-ORF-reported-that-they-received-a-record-1,500-calls-about
the-first-----
Officials-at-ORF-reported-that-they-received-a-record-1,--

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The program was shown in ~~an~~ uninterrupted installments on prime time on March 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1979. It was preceded by panel discussions on ^{concentration} television and on radio that also included/film and documentation from the ^{elected officials, scholars, historians, and camp survivors} ~~official~~ German and Western Allied archives, and direct testimony from ~~Austrians who were themselves incarcerated in concentration camps such as Mauthausen.~~ ^{Before H. was shown, Austrian TV aired "The Final Solution" + the documentary was watched by one million Austrians.}

THE FIGURES

Two and one-fifth million Austrians, or 44% of the population, saw the entire series (as compared with 29% in Germany), and 2.9 million, or 50%, saw at least one installment.

Officials at the state-owned television station reported that they received a record 1,500 calls about the first episode, about ~~half of which~~ equally divided between pro- and anti-Holocaust. Newspaper polls indicated a similar division at the time. "There were strong anti-semitic comments and ~~But-by-the-time-the-first-installment-was-over~~ calls urging TV officials to show 'other cruelties' as well," noted public opinion analyst Peter Diem, who monitored the initial night's showing response. ^{But, he reported, "the that night} number of positive reactions gradually increased"/~~after~~ the program ended.

By the time the series was over, ORF had gotten 7,361 calls--again, a record--and that represented a larger percentage of viewers calling in than the German station WRD received when it showed Holocaust. Indeed, officials said that ^{it} ~~that~~ was 50% higher than ^{what} ~~was~~ experienced in West Germany.

Even still, the general response was not wholly positive, and there were enough angered or disbelieving calls for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to note that many Austrians "appeared querulous about the reminder of their Nazi past

see p 2. dult 1
and RNS, yellow sheet

active *added some depth to*
suggested *Dien's*
absence;

~~But~~ An analysis of the calls that came in throughout the series ~~showed~~ ^{that} 44% thought well of the series, ~~and that~~ ^{while} 32% disliked it. The remainder were non-committal. Many within that 44% expressed their awareness (often, ORF said, it seemed for the first time) of ~~what~~ ^{the} the lesson the series bore.

But a general response, as indicated in a joint poll by an Austrian public opinion research organizations showed that 87% of all viewers reacted positively to the show, and that only 13% reacted negatively. This poll found that 92% agreed it was "credible," that 79% found it "genuinely moving," that 73% ~~found~~ thought it "necessary, and that 68% thought Holocaust "objective."

Only 5% actually objected to it. ^{It} ~~seems~~ ^{seems} that the show raised a higher parity of ~~tone~~ ^{of tone} who disliked it than of ~~tone~~ ^{tone} who liked it to ~~their~~ ^{their} telephone.

This breakdown suggests certain fine distinctions (that not all those who found it credible were also moved by it; that some people thought it was necessary even if it weren't objective in its presentation). But a more significant aspect of ~~the~~ viewer breakdown-developed-out-of-the-age-breakdowns in-viewer-response-which-the-poll-found. While ~~44%~~ ⁵⁰ of all Austrians watched the entire series, 59% of these attitudes is suggested by the fact that before the showing of Holocaust, a poll found 74% of its respondents against its being shown and only 24% in favor.

The young, in particular, reacted strongly to what were for them, the revelations of the series. ~~Extraordinary radio broadcasts~~ "There was an extraordinary radio ~~broadcast~~ ^{debate}," reported the Christian Science Monitor, "between parents and their own teenage and older children."

"The later," the paper said, "would have none of the well worn arguments that 'the past should be forgotten.' 'You are wrong,' ~~said~~ ^{said} one 18 year old told his father. "I don't know how you (your generation) lived all these years without telling us what happened."

enter on last pg.

p7
A leading official of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions, Alfred Stroer, concluded from the national debate that the series had convinced a majority of Austrians that their terrors of the Nazi rule must not occur again.

THE PRESS

All the Vienna ~~daily~~ daily newspapers applauded the showing of Holocaust, with the sole exception of Die Presse, an ^{large circulation major and} ultra-conservative newspaper which likes to style itself as 'The "Times" of Austria,' and whose reputation rests largely upon its past--when its largely Jewish editorial staff included Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism, and David Ben Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister.

Paul Hoffman, writing from Vienna for the New York Times itself, reported that Die Presse dismissed the series as "horror bore in the Hollywood manner," ~~created "purely out of business interest, yes, and for no other purpose than dollars."~~ ^{and was only} Holocaust was, said this paper, "speculation on scare and guilt feelings." Hoffman wrote that this paper is "sometimes described as Austria's leading paper," and that It complained that no television series had ever been done on the bombing of Hamburg, the slaughter under Stalin, or the Pol Pot regime's massacres in Cambodia.

Hoffman also ^{noted that} ~~quoted from~~ the provincial newspaper Salzburger Volksblatt, which had ^{didn't approve of} ~~equally acerbic words about~~ the series, and which ran a series on "The Other Holocaust," the post-war expulsion of Germans from Czechoslovakia. The Neu Kronen-Zeitung, the Austrian paper with the largest circulation, he reported, filled two pages with what it stated was a representative selection of reader comments phoned in after the first part of Holocaust was on the air. Only 10 out of 30 unequivocally expressed shame or horror. (Hoffman did not relate opinion analyst Peter Diem's findings that ^{negative} ~~subsequent~~ calls to the broadcasting stations ^{were at their peak} ~~were most anti-Holocaust~~ at this same time.)

Hoffman's reporting produced an irate letter to the New York Times from Thomas Nowotny, Consul General of Austria in New York. Hoffman's story was written, charged Nowotny, "in a way which must be termed misleading, if not in fact an outright misrepresentation."

"Of the numerous letters to the editor written to various Austrian publications, an overwhelming majority expressed themselves strongly in favor of the program, and also of the subsequent televised discussions... Why," *Nowotny asked,* "doesn't he mention that the editorials he chose to quote were among the few exceptions, that virtually all others came out in strong support of the series," *he asked.*

But Nowotny did not dispute the text of the quotes. For there were two sides to the Austrian response; and the ^{minority} negative side was large enough to ~~produce reports in other foreign media~~ ^{lead to} the Jewish Telegraphic Agency report which found a "mixed reaction" in the nation, *and a Religion News Service*

THE POLITICIANS' RESPONSE

Chancellor Bruno Kreisky seemed to reflect ~~this strongly~~ ^{report that the media was generally frequently hostile to the film} supportive but at the same time somehow ambiguous response in his statements about the series. Addressing a socialist party convention on the day of the first evening's broadcast, he said he thought the series should prompt a discussion of the roots of Nazism. "We have to make sure that it will not happen again. We must talk sensibly with each other and not look silently."

He also warned against "mindless black and white painting that simply pronounces all those guilty who lived then, and presumes to judge them without knowing of the pain that is haunting them." He declared that he knew more than most people about the crimes of the era because of the close friends and relatives he had lost then. "Yet, without examining ~~it~~ how it ~~happened~~ could occur, ~~again~~ we will not be more intelligent another time," he observed, supporting thusly the message of the show.

But when asked if he had seen it, Kreisky replied that he hadn't, explaining that "Anyone who counted the victims of Nazi persecution in his own family did not need this film." ~~And xat z a n o t h e r z p o x i t z h e x z~~

~~And~~ ^H he also suggested that "Neither nationalism nor chauvinism, including Jewish chauvinism, will help solve the problem of anti-semitism."

A leading member of Parliament, Dr. Otto Scrinzi, was perhaps the most prominent spokesman for the right-wing antagonism to the film. ~~Holocaust,~~ he claimed, "~~helped neither the Jews nor the Germans, it has damaged both.~~"

"One thing seems sure," he ^{claimed} ~~continued,~~ "the cash registers in Hollywood and Moscow are in harmony. By this he meant to suggest that the series had not only been produced in Hollywood, but ~~that it had been financed by the~~ ~~Sov~~ U.S.S.R. to undermine the Germans. The only leading figure to come close to threatening the Jews, Scrinzi spoke of the "deep irrationality" of the Jewish personality and religion ~~and~~ which was apt to "trigger confusions, fear and eventually bloody aggressions in almost all host nations."

~~Scrinzi's~~ ^{however,} remarks drew many critical letters, ~~to the magazine Profil,~~ ~~noted~~ Consul General Nowotny ^{noted}

THE RIGHT

But there was no denying that the Austrian right, even if, ~~as the polls~~ mostly consisted of fringe groups and feactionary politicians and ~~indicates~~, it/represented a small percentage of the Austrians in ~~their~~ view of Holocaust, nonetheless made its views known.

In addition to the anti-semitic and anti-Holocaust phone calls that ORF ^{en} ~~received~~ and the Neu Kronig Zeitung received, there were distributed in the southern city of Graz leaflets calling Holocaust "the biggest lie in history."

In Vienna, demonstrators were expected around the ~~televisio~~ ORF studio, and the police threw a security cordon around the building. But no protestors appeared. The director of Channel Two, however, received death threats relating to the film's airing.

^{In effect} ~~Perhaps~~ in further testimony to the powerful impact Holocaust exerted

upon the great majority of Austrians, the right-wing Freedom Party fell victim to an internal split over the series. The party's national leadership vehemently dissociated itself from the anti-Holocaust pamphlets that were published by the party's own extremist wing.

And a call came for the outlawing of the Action New Right organization, signed by almost 100 Vienna University professors and staff members.

EDUCATION

The government did respond to the series, in a more significant fashion. Fred Sinowatz, the Minister of Education, had anticipated, even before the airing, that interest in Holocaust would spill over into the classroom. In order to help teachers prepare for this, the Ministry sent to the schools a list of information materials which teachers could request.

After the airing, ^{had begun} Sinowatz requested that Austrian teachers "deal with the horrors of the Nazi occupation during World War II. He ~~ordered teachers-- to institute detailed and serious class discussions on the~~ "After the war and until quite recently," noted the Christian Science Monitor, "history teaching in Austrian schools and universities on the whole 1933-45 Nazi period was scimpy. Watching Holocaust, young people seemed suddenly to be realizing just how much had been omitted and to resent it." He ordered teachers to institute detailed and serious talks on the film and its significance for today and for the future.

CATCHING THE NATION'S CONSCIENCE

The prestigious French newspaper Le Monde told its readers that Holocaust was "a shock for the Austrians" which "caught the conscience" of the nation.

P. 4 → There is no doubt, but that, in Austria as in Germany, the ~~unintentional~~ ^{consensual} repression of a terrible era had been torn aside. Not all were pleased by the experience of reconsidering the past, but as the Austrian television poll showed, the great majority of the country found ~~it necessary~~ they had needed to do so.

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AMERICAN JEWISH

Original documents
faded and/or illegible



JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

FEB 21 1979

VIENNA (JTA) -- Fred Sinowatz, Minister of Education, has asked Austrian teachers to deal with the horrors of the Nazi occupation during World War II when the NBC-TV "Holocaust" series is shown on Austrian television early in March. Hundreds of thousands of Austrians will view "Holocaust" and there will be a lot of discussions by viewers in their homes, Sinowatz said. There is no doubt that the discussions will be carried over to the schools and the teachers must be well prepared for this, he said. The Ministry will therefore send to schools a list of information materials which can be requested by teachers.



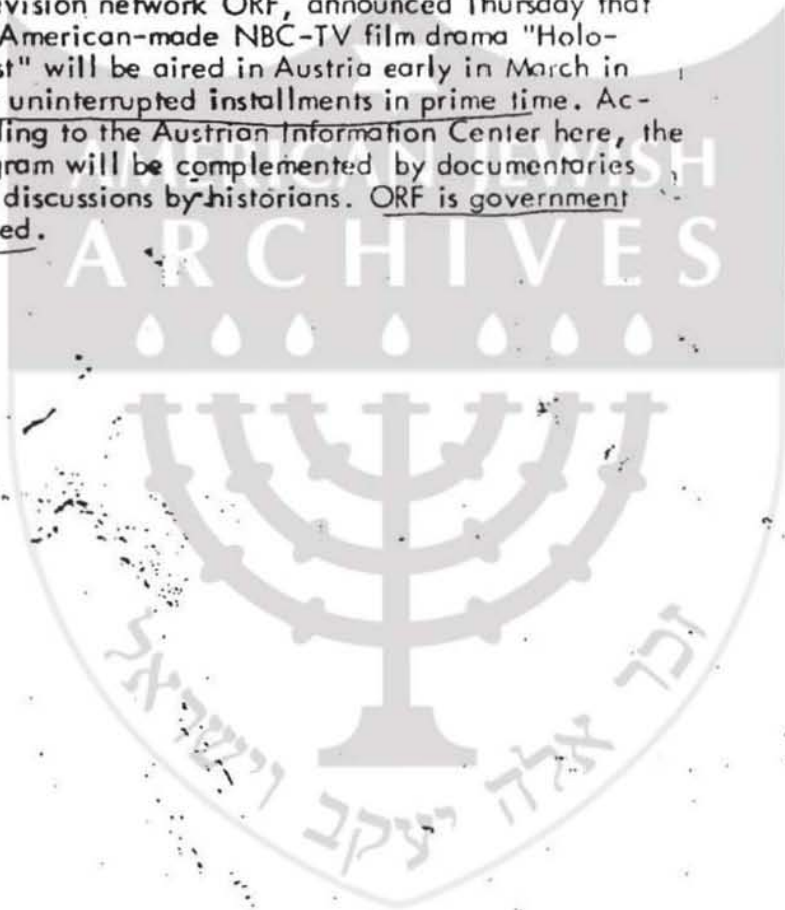
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03 Holocaust

JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

FEB 2 1979

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Austrian Radio and Television network ORF, announced Thursday that the American-made NBC-TV film drama "Holocaust" will be aired in Austria early in March in four uninterrupted installments in prime time. According to the Austrian Information Center here, the program will be complemented by documentaries and discussions by historians. ORF is government owned.



Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, New York, N.Y. File: 03 Holocaust

TO: MK 2 22 03 Film 04 Austria

JEWISH CHRONICLE

MAR 23 1979

**Holocaust film
splits party**

From **SIMONE MEYSELS**
Vienna

Two weeks after the screening of "Holocaust," the American TV film series, the public debate on Nazi war crimes continues in Austria. The series has caused a split in the Right-wing Freedom Party, whose national leadership has vehemently dissociated itself from the "anti-Holocaust" pamphlets published by the party's extremist wing. Nearly 100 Vienna University professors and other staff have signed an appeal to the Austrian Government to outlaw the "Action New Right," an extremist group.



JEWISH CHRONICLE

MAR 9 1979

'Holocaust' in Austria

From SIMONE MEYSELS
Vienna

Confounding the sceptics, "Holocaust," the American TV film series, which was filmed mainly in Austria, with the participation of many well-known Austrian actors and actresses, gained an overwhelmingly favourable response.

A joint poll conducted by Austrian public opinion research organisations showed that 59 per cent of all Austrians over 18 watched at least one part, 29 per cent watched all four, and 44 per cent watched the last part.

No less than 87 per cent of viewers reacted positively to "Holocaust," while 13 per cent reacted negatively. Austrian television received more than 7,000 telephone calls, 44 per cent of them favourable.

Various Right-wing fringe groups distributed anti-"Holocaust" pamphlets, and several death threats were made to the director of TV Channel 2.

The Austrian education authorities have decided to discuss the subject extensively in primary and secondary schools and to intensify the teaching of contemporary history in all schools.

All the Vienna dailies welcomed the showing of the film series, with the exception of "Die Presse," an ultra-conservative paper, which likes to call itself "The Times' of Austria."

The paper owes its reputation entirely to its largely Jewish editorial staff before the Second World War, whose members included Theodor Herzl (the founder of Zionism) and David Ben-Gurion (Israel's first Prime Minister) who served as Palestine correspondent.

dup
04 Austria

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03 Holocaust

JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

MAR 6 1979

MIXED REACTION TO 'HOLOCAUST' FILM

VIENNA, March 5 (JTA) -- The first episode of the NBC-TV film series "Holocaust," screened on State-owned television last Thursday night, drew a mixed reaction from viewers. Officials reported that the record 1500 telephone calls received at the studios were divided about evenly for and against the showing. Newspaper polls showed a similar division.

Police threw a security cordon around the television studios during the broadcast to prevent threatened right-wing demonstrations but no incidents were reported. In Graz in the south of Austria, leaflets were distributed, presumably by right-wing organizations, calling the Holocaust "the biggest lie in history."

In contrast to West Germany, where the film made a tremendous impact when it was shown in January, many Austrians appeared querulous about the reminder of their Nazi past. Austria was occupied by the Nazis in 1938 when a vast majority of the populace approved of the Anschluss. A number of Austrian Nazis played leading roles in the extermination of Jews.

Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, addressing a Socialist Party convention in Linz last Thursday, said the series should prompt discussion of the roots of the horrors of Nazi rule in Europe. "We have to make sure that it will not happen again. We must talk sensibly with each other and not look silently," he said.

He was also quoted as saying that the Nazi ascent to power in the 1930s should be viewed in the perspective of the economic miseries of the people in Germany and Austria at the time. "Neither nationalism nor chauvinism, including Jewish chauvinism, will help solve the problem of anti-Semitism," said Kreisky, who is of Jewish origin.

THE WASHINGTON POST

MAR 3 1979

**'Holocaust' Moves
Austrian Viewers**

VIENNA, March 2 (AP) — The televising of the first installment of "Holocaust" in Austria resulted in the biggest number of calls from viewers ever received by the state television service because of a single program, the service's headquarters reported.

"There were strong anti-Semitic comments and calls urging TV officials to show 'other cruelties' as well," said Peter Diem, an opinion analyst who monitored the response to the Thursday night showing. He said that when the program ended "the number of positive reactions gradually increased."

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES



To the Editor:

In The Times of March 29 Paul Hofmann reports from Vienna on reactions to the screening of "Holocaust" on Austrian television in a way which must be termed misleading, if not in fact an outright misrepresentation. Never has any television program in Austria been watched by as many viewers as "Holocaust" (2.2 million, or 44 percent, saw the whole series, as compared with 29 percent in Germany; 2.9 million, or 50 percent, saw at least one part of it). The percentage of persons who responded with calls to the television network was twice as high as in Germany.

The United Press International dispatch, which reports that 51.5 percent of those callers favored showing the series and 35.5 percent opposed showing it, lead to headlines in many American newspapers, such as "Most Austrians O.K. Holocaust on TV" (Paterson [N.J.] Evening News).

The Times headline, as if reflecting the article's ambiguity, reads, "Many Austrians Seem to Bristle at TV 'Holocaust.'" This creates a general impression which is not only contradictory to all other reports from Vienna (The Arizona Republic, for instance, writes: "Austrians Applaud Series"; The Christian Science Monitor notes:

"Holocaust shakes Austria, too"), but is also in blatant contradiction to a representative poll, taken independently by the two leading Austrian pollsters, after the complete series was shown. They found that 87 percent were "enthusiastic and satisfied" (the respective figure for Germany is 75 percent), 92 percent termed the series "credible," 79 percent found it "genuinely moving" and 74 percent thought it was "necessary"; a mere 5 percent objected to it.

Of the numerous letters written to various Austrian publications, an overwhelming majority expressed themselves strongly in favor of the program, and also of the subsequent televised discussions.

Why does Mr. Hofmann not mention

The development and maintenance of the film seems assured. At the beginning of this year there came into force an agreement signed between the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the city-state of Berlin, providing for close co-operation between the film section of the Federal Archive at Koblenz, the German Cinematheque Foundation at Berlin, and the German Film Institute at Wiesbaden. There were plans for a central German film archive at West Berlin but none of the other federal states were ready to help finance this project. The compromise achieved in the Association provides for the most urgent tasks being split between the three institutes involved with the Berlin Cinematheque providing the chairman for the co-ordinating council. In future, German films will be collected, conserved, and stored by the Federal Archive at Koblenz since only there are the necessary technical facilities and space available. The emphasis will be on copying old nitro-film, which is a fire risk, onto safety film. The Wiesbaden Institute and the Berlin Cinematheque are concerned with scholarly evaluation of the films held, and their distribution on a non-commercial basis. An impressive 45 million metres of film are held by the Association, and yet that constitutes only a fraction of total production. For instance, only 3% of all the silent films made in Germany are available as compared with 60% of the sound films produced up to the end of the Third Reich. As little as 17% of post-war West German film production is contained in the archives. The long-term intention is to extend holdings by buying copies from abroad. Film scholars would also like to intensify work on a central catalogue of the German sound film, and to devote greater attention to acquisition and evaluation of films from other countries. (Deutsche Kinemathek, Weiserstr. 25, D-1000 Berlin 30.)

Confrontation with the past in "Holocaust"

The American TV series "Holocaust", which was transmitted across the country by German Television in the last week of January, was watched by an unexpectedly large number of people. A few days beforehand, the Cologne TV station (WDR) showed a number of documentary films on persecution of the Jews in order to provide predominantly younger viewers with a chance of informing themselves about the darkest chapter in German history. Despite the late transmission time of 9 in the evening, "Holocaust" achieved viewing figures that no-one had anticipated. The four parts attracted 32, 36, 39, and on the final evening 41% of those watching television at the time. The dramatised story was followed on each of these evenings by a live discussion with the participants - including such victims of persecution as Eugen Kogon - providing scholarly and literary evaluation of the preceding programme. Around 20% of the viewers stayed with the discussion until after midnight in order to follow what was said or to participate by phoning in questions. During the week when "Holocaust" was transmitted, television stations received 30,000 telephone calls and several thousand letters and telex messages about the programmes. An assessment of viewer reactions by psychologists, statisticians, and sociologists is still in progress. The response to what was initially a controversial series was largely positive though, and it was particularly young people who demanded more detailed and objective information.

any of the above? Why doesn't he mention that the editorials he chose to quote were among the few exceptions, that virtually all others came out in strong support of the series? Why is there no word about the many letters to the editor, published in the latest issue of Profil, both unambiguously and unequivocally condemning Dr. Scizzi's point of view? And why does he not mention that the Austrian Minister of Education has asked Austrian teachers "to deal with the horrors of the Nazi occupation during World War II" - according to a dispatch from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reprinted in many U.S. publications?

THOMAS NOWOTNY
Consul General of Austria,
New York, March 29, 1977

Karl...
1977 E 3

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MAR 29 1979

Many Austrians Seem to Bristle at TV 'Holocaust'

By **PAUL HOFMANN**

Special to The New York Times

VIENNA, March 28 — The response to the American television series "Holocaust" in Hitler's native Austria appears to have been less sympathetic than it was in West Germany. Hostile and ambiguous reactions abound here.

A provincial newspaper, Salzburger Volksblatt, responded to the American re-enactment of the fate of the Jews during the Nazi era, shown by Austrian television earlier this month, with a series of its own titled "The Other Holocaust." It offered allegations of atrocities committed when Czechoslovakia expelled millions of ethnic Germans at the end of World War II.

Die Presse of Vienna, sometimes described as Austria's leading daily, dismissed the American series as a "horror bore in the Hollywood manner" that was concocted "purely out of business interest, yes, for no other purpose than dollars," and as "merchandise in a speculation on scare and guilt feelings."

Die Presse also said that no television series had ever recalled the Allied bombing of Hamburg, which caused a firestorm that enveloped that city, the killing of millions under Stalin's rule, and the massacres carried out by the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia.

The Austrian newspaper with the largest circulation, Neue Kronen-Zeitung of Vienna, filled two pages with what it said

was a representative selection of comments that readers had phoned in after the first part of "Holocaust" had been on the air. Only 10 of 39 readers' opinions unequivocally expressed horror or shame at the annihilation of millions of Jews.

The others criticized the American series for a variety of reasons, ranging from historical inaccuracies to the contention that old atrocity stories should not be revived.

Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, who is of Jewish stock and describes himself as an agnostic, discussed "Holocaust" at length during a recent rally of his Social Democratic Party.

He warned against "mindless black-and-white painting that simply pro-



ounces all those guilty who lived then, and presumes to judge them without knowing of the pain that is haunting them."

Mr. Kreisky declared that he knew more than most people about the crimes that were committed under Hitler because close relatives and dear friends had died at the hands of the Germans. "Yet, without examining how it could occur, we will not be more intelligent another time," the Chancellor observed.

A leading right-wing politician and member of Parliament, Otto Scrinzi, said in a published comment that the "Holocaust" series had "helped neither the Jews nor the Germans, it has rather damaged both."

"One thing only seems sure," he went on, "the cash registers in Hollywood and Moscow are in harmony."

The remark implied that the television

production had been financed by the Soviet Union to disparage the Germans. Similar charges were made, sometimes more crudely, in leaflets attacking "Holocaust" that neo-Nazi groups circulated.

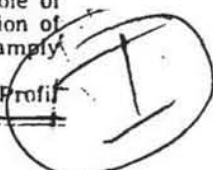
Dr. Scrinzi, a neurologist, charged that the "deep irrationality" of the Jewish people and the Jewish religion were apt to "trigger confusions, fear and eventually bloody aggressions in almost all host nations."

An organization of former members of the Austrian anti-Nazi underground movement during World War II issued a report on "Holocaust and Austria." Wolfgang Neugebauer, who compiled the publication, said that "the special role of Austrian Nazis in the radicalization of Nazi policies toward the Jews is amply proved."

The Vienna news magazine Profil

brought out a special issue titled "Austria's Share in the Final Solution." The magazine recalled that Adolf Eichmann, who organized the deportation and murder of Jews, although a native of the Rhineland, grew up in Austria.

Profil listed other prominent Austrian Nazis who had been implicated in war crimes and concluded that "Austrians joined in the murders wherever the Austrian Hitler and his German henchmen wished."



BLANSTEIN
LIBRARY

JUN 19 1979

American Jewish
Committee

Après la diffusion d'«Holocauste»

Un choc pour les Autrichiens

PLUS de trente ans après la guerre, une véritable prise de conscience de l'ampleur des crimes nazis s'est-elle produite dans la population autrichienne ? Avant de diffuser le film Holocauste sur le petit écran, les responsables viennois de la télévision avaient décidé d'attendre les réactions à sa projection en Allemagne fédérale. Prudence traditionnelle dans un pays où, après 1945, plusieurs procès célèbres contre d'anciens nazis se sont terminés par des non-lieu et où l'on a trop tendance à oublier que plusieurs exécutants de la « solution finale » (Adolf Eichmann, Kaltenbrunner, notamment), sans parler d'Hitler lui-même, étaient d'origine autrichienne. La décision des Alliés de considérer l'Autriche comme la première victime du Reich a sans doute favorisé ce retournement du passé.

Or, de façon assez surprenante, le choc causé par Holocauste en Autriche semble avoir été aussi grand, sinon plus peut-être, qu'en Allemagne fédérale, du moins si l'on en croit les résultats de l'enquête que viennent de publier deux instituts de sondages d'opinion.

Plus de deux millions de personnes en moyenne (1), soit

44 % de l'ensemble des téléspectateurs, ont regardé tout ou partie d'Holocauste, et 87 % d'entre eux l'ont jugé « très bon » ou « bon ». En R.F.A., selon les mêmes sources, la série a été suivie par un peu moins de 29 % des téléspectateurs. Plus de 92 % des personnes interrogées en Autriche n'ont pas mis en cause la crédibilité des faits relatés, 65 % y ont trouvé un intérêt historique, et 68 % ont estimé le film objectif. Comment expliquer cette réaction ?

L'intense campagne d'information menée, pendant plusieurs semaines, par les mass media et par les institutions publiques, a incontestablement joué un rôle. Le ministre de l'éducation et de la culture, M. Sinowatz, estimant qu'il serait « irresponsable » qu'un tel film soit projeté sans que les écoliers et les lycéens y soient préparés, mais surtout sans que les enseignants puissent répondre à leurs questions, avait décidé de fournir gratuitement aux établissements scolaires un important matériel d'information. Une bibliographie des ouvrages relatifs à cette époque a été adressée aux sept mille établissements scolaires du pays.

*Langage
Pinker*

De façon courageuse

Parallèlement, une brochure traitant du nazisme et de la persécution des juifs a été spécialement éditée et mise à la disposition de tous les directeurs d'écoles et de lycées, ainsi que de leurs enseignants. Une semaine avant la projection du film, le ministère en avait déjà distribué vingt mille. En outre, dans le cadre de la « formation politique à l'école », instaurée il y a un peu moins d'un an, les « stations-service d'information » créées à cet effet, dans chacun des neuf Länder, étaient prêtes à organiser, sur simple demande des autorités scolaires, des conférences et des discussions avec des historiens spécialisés, les parents y étant conviés.

La télévision, de son côté, avait, deux jours avant la diffusion d'Holocauste, présenté une remarquable émission sur la « solution finale », les origines de l'antisémitisme en général et de ses causes particulières en Autriche. Plus d'un million de personnes l'ont regardée.

Quant aux journaux, ils ont, dans leur quasi-totalité, traité de façon détaillée, courageuse et parfois brutale, du sort

réserve aux juifs sous le nazisme. L'histoire du camp de Mauthausen et de ses annexes, en Haute-Autriche, les atrocités qui s'y sont déroulées, ont été racontées et illustrées sans détour.

Toute la presse cependant n'a pas eu la même attitude. Certains commentateurs ont exprimé leur peur devant la résurgence de cette sombre période de l'histoire, d'autres ont refusé de la reconnaître en tant que telle. Cela était notamment le cas du quotidien conservateur Die Presse, dont le rédacteur en chef, dans un éditorial intitulé « Le masochisme d'Holocauste », a amalgamé les victimes du nazisme à celles du stalinisme et du régime cambodgien, tout en mettant en garde contre un film qui, dans un but jugé purement commercial, ferait renaître le sentiment de culpabilité collective et inciterait, en fin de compte, à ne condamner que le peuple allemand.

ANITA RIND.

(1) L'Autriche compte, à l'heure actuelle, 7,5 millions d'habitants.

Le Monde

04 Austria

TO: MK2 LL

03 Holocaust

~~JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN~~

~~MAR 10 1979~~

VIENNA (JTA) -- A leading official of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions (OEGB) said this week that the American NBC-TV series "Holocaust" has convinced the majority of Austrians that horrors of a Nazi rule must not occur again. Alfred Stroer, a union secretary, made this statement during a banquet on the Austrian resistance to the invasion of the country by Nazi troops on March 13, 1938.

ARCHIVES



CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

MAR 8 1979

FOCUS

Holocaust shakes Austria, too

By Eric Bourne

Vienna

First West Germany and France. Now Austria is reacting sharply to Holocaust, the American film about Nazi German concentration camps that has touched off what is undoubtedly the most emotional debate felt in this country for many years.

Shown almost exactly 41 years after Austria, subverted from within by its own sizable Nazi Party, was forcibly swallowed up into the greater Reich, Holocaust riveted the country's biggest-ever radio-TV audiences.

On four successive evenings, ORF (Austrian radio and television) screened this grim seven-hour, half-conventional, half-documentary movie about Hitler's millions of victims, mostly Jews, before and during World War II.

It was preceded by introductory panels on both media that mixed film and docu-

mentation from official German and Western Allied archives with direct testimony of Austrians who themselves were incarcerated in some of the worst camps (including Mauthausen in Austria) and had somehow survived.

Many called in

Well over 7,000 people from all parts of Austria besieged the special telephone line ORF laid on for public comment. Some of the calls were broadcast as they came in.

There were those, both men and women whose voices choked as they tried to express shock at the horrors the film depicted with such authenticity. There were others who angrily denounced it as "exaggerated" and as "propaganda" contrived by the Western Allies, the subject now "commercialized just like any other 'popular' horror film."

Analysis of the calls showed approx-

(A)

mately 44 per cent approved ORF's decision to screen the film and expressed the callers' awareness - often, it seemed, for the first time - of the lesson it seeks to put across. (Vienna, which in 1938 gave Hitler a rapturous welcome, showed an even higher percentage.)

Thirty-two percent, it was said, were "definitely" negative, the rest noncommittal.

When the final sequence faded from the screen, TV and radio launched into discussions in which well-known public figures, members of government, and, again, camp survivors took part.

In the past Austria has, both publicly and privately, often exhibited a highly ambivalent attitude toward the Nazi past, including its own.

Frequently, judicial action against known and identified Nazi criminals was extremely tardy. Court verdicts were often "soft" despite overwhelming evidence.

But Holocaust - whatever its film merits might be argued to be - has, in fact, been a bombshell, much as it was in West Germany shortly before.

It revealed a quite new, unsuspected degree of apparent public concern trying to come to terms with problems hitherto well

concealed in the cupboard. The public debate shows no sign of flagging.

Above all, the film generated intense interest among the younger generation.

Omissions resented

After the war and even until quite recently, history teaching in Austrian schools and universities on the whole 1933-45 Nazi period was skimpy. Watching Holocaust, young people seemed suddenly to be realizing just how much had been omitted and to resent it.

It prompted the education minister to order schools to institute detailed and serious class discussion of the film and its significance for today and the future.

There was an extraordinary public debate between parents and their own teenage and older children.

The latter would have none of the self-worn argument that "the past should be forgotten." "You are wrong," one 15-year-old told his father. "I don't know how you [your generation] lived all these years without telling us what happened."

Holocaust, said Mrs. Rosa Jernik, 67, a Mauthausen survivor, had "helped make a whole generation in Germany aware. It looked as though that was forgotten here in Austria, too."

(I)

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Original documents
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THE NEW YORK TIMES

APR 5 1979

How Austrians Reacted to Television's 'Holocaust'

To the Editor:

In The Times of March 29 Paul Hofmann reports from Vienna on reactions to the screening of "Holocaust" on Austrian television in a way which must be termed misleading, if not in fact an outright misrepresentation. Never has any television program in Austria been watched by as many viewers as "Holocaust" (2.2 million, or 44 percent, saw the whole series, 49 compared with 29 percent in Germany; 2.9 million, or 50 percent, saw at least one part of it). The percentage of persons who responded with calls to the television network was twice as high as in Germany.

The United Press International dispatch, which reports that 51.6 percent of those callers favored showing the series and 35.5 percent opposed showing it, lead to headlines in many American newspapers, such as "Most Austrians O.K. Holocaust on TV" (Paterson [N.J.] Evening News).

The Times headline, as if reflecting the article's ambiguity, reads, "Many Austrians Seem to Bristle at TV 'Holocaust.'" This creates a general impression which is not only contradictory to all other reports from Vienna (The Arizona Republic, for instance, writes: "Austrians Applaud Series"; The Christian Science Monitor notes:

"Holocaust shakes Austria, too"), but is also in blatant contradiction to a representative poll, taken independently by the two leading Austrian pollsters, after the complete series was shown. They found that 87 percent were "enthusiastic and satisfied" (the respective figure for Germany is 75 percent); 92 percent termed the series "credible," 79 percent found it "genuinely moving" and 73 percent thought it was "necessary"; a mere 5 percent objected to it.

Of the numerous letters written to various Austrian publications, an overwhelming majority expressed themselves strongly in favor of the program, and also of the subsequent televised discussions.

Why does Mr. Hofmann not mention

any of the above? Why doesn't he mention that the editorials he chose to quote were among the few exceptions, that virtually all others came out in strong support of the series? Why is there no word about the many letters to the editor, published in the latest issue of Profil, both unanimously and unequivocally condemning Dr. Scinzi's point of view? And why does he not mention that the Austrian Minister of Education has asked Austrian teachers "to deal with the horrors of the Nazi occupation during World War II" — according to a dispatch from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reprinted in many U.S. publications?

THOMAS NOWOTNY
Consul General of Austria
New York, March 29, 1979



Austria Reacts Mostly 'Favorable' To 'Holocaust'; 13% Negative

By ERNIE REED

Vienna, March 20.

"Holocaust," the American tv series centering on the wartime extermination of Jews, scored a marked success in Austria, the homeland of the man who started it all, Adolf Hitler. According to the latest figures, some 2,200,000 Austrians saw the four-part tube series that was shown recently on Channel 2 of the national Austrian network, ORF.

Video officials here say that "percentage-wise" there had been at least a 50% higher rate in both the interest and after-reactions of viewers to "Holocaust" than in neighboring West Germany which has some 10 times more tv viewers than here. The officials said that after the showing of "Holocaust" ORF had received a record number of telephone calls, some 7,361, compared to the 30,000 that had been made to the West German network.

In a telephone interview poll taken by ORF, 87% of the people expressed the opinion that "Holocaust" had been either very good or satisfactory while only 13% believed that it had been poor and unworthy of being shown. Some protested that it had been a typically distorted Hollywood film and wanted to know why the Americans at the same time had not produced a film showing the wartime bombing and destruction of Hamburg and other West Germany cities.

Some 68% thought the series had been objective, and 92% believed that the facts of the film had been true. Only a small percentage thought that the series had been "kitchy" or childish. Most of the viewers thought that the series had been packed with emotion and tension. Despite the positive reaction to "Holocaust," ORF general direc-

(Continued on page 74)

'Holocaust' In Austria

(Continued from page 64)

tor Gerd Bacher, said that there are no plans to repeat the series, which comfortably outdrew in viewer interest the international shows shown at the same time on Channel One.

During the showing of Holocaust, Austrian police took precautionary measures to safeguard the Vienna headquarters of ORF following the receiving of bomb threats and letters of protests. However, there were no serious repercussions. In one of the few minor incidents, unknown persons had distributed anti-"Holocaust" leaflets at the site of the Mathausen wartime Nazi concentration camp, which is about 120 miles west of this Austrian capital.

When asked about "Holocaust," Jewish-born Austrian chancellor Bruno Kreisky said that he had not seen the series. He explained, "Anyone who counted the victims of Nazi persecution in his own family did not need this film."

Austria

Austria

Plus de 92% des personnes interrogées en Autriche n'ont pas mis en cause la crédibilité

① Le Monde, - in French date? Anita Rad
June 79? key.

"Après la diffusion d'« Holocauste 77 »"

"Un choc pour les Autrichiens"

"A shock for the Austrians" "prise de conscience" entering the conscience of the population. Waited for German reactions. traditional prudence in a country which tries to forget that many Nazis were of Austrian origin - Eichmann, Kaltenbrunner - Hitler as well.

2 schools of opinion. More than 2 million viewers that is 44% of the entire television viewing audience saw part or all of it. 87% favorable, saying (too) good. ((très bon)) En Autriche n'ont pas mis en cause la crédibilité des faits relatés, 65% l'ont vu d'un intérêt historique, 68% estimés que le film doit être objectif.

Different ^{Conflicting} facts coming out about reaction. It would be irresponsible to show the film in elementary & high schools. Without the teacher who could respond to their question. - Sent out materials for educational purposes. at the same time other inf on the Nazis and their persecution was made available for school principals. Discussions w/ scholars & historians. Before the airing there was a documentary on the "Final solution" & the origins of anti-Semitism & Austrian. one million watched this.