

OHR RTRS News Summary, 6 December 1999

News Headlines

- BiH Presidency meets with Turkish President Sulejman Demirel
- BiH Presidency and Demirel sign agreement on establishing Turkish Cultural Center in Sarajevo
- Frowick meets with RS Refugee Minister Dragicevic
- Incel workers to resume work on 8 December
- Miljevina mine workers go on strike
- Prijedor Celpak to end strike
- RS Minister of Victims of Labor and War Gligoric discusses suspension of payments to invalids in Dobo
- RS pensioners to receive September pensions soon
- Banja Luka Pensioners' Associations discusses unpaid pensions
- US Embassy issues announcement on New York Declaration
- Asanin and US Ambassador to BiH Miller discuss implementation of New York Declaration
- RT RS General Director reaction to statement of SRNA acting director
- French Ambassador to BiH and BiH Constitutional Court sign agreement on French donation to Court - ONASA
- No need to discuss functioning of authorities in Bosansko Grahovo because Mayor resigned six months ago - Livno Canton Prime Minister Mihaljevic - Sarajevo media
- Central Bosnia Canton Deputy President Terzic rejects HDZ request for dismissal of Croat member of Cantonal Government - Sarajevo media
- 10 persons injured in car accidents in Central Bosnia Canton - ONASA
- ICTY confiscates weapons in RS Army warehouse in Zvornik
- Robertson and Annan to discuss ethnic violence and aid to Kosovo
- OSCE Kosovo Head Everts presents reports on human rights violations in Kosovo
- Number of criminal acts in Kosovska Mitrovica nine times less than in Pristina - UN police
- Serbian Justice Ministry accuses Kosovska Mitrovica Court of forcing Serbs to leave town
- Kosovo Serb National Council condemns mining of church in Vitina
- Issuing passports in Kosovo is attempt to create illegal institutions - Serb National Assembly Executive Board President Odalovic
- EU fuel trucks head towards Nis and Pirot - BETA
- EU prohibits visas to list of 557 persons in Milosevic regime
- World News
- SNSD and Social Liberal Party unite because of similar political programs and determination to continue democratic processes - Dodik
- Declaring Sarajevo as district would expedite Serb returns to Sarajevo - BiH Minister for Civil Issues and Communication Asanin
- Serb and Albanian negotiations with UN on judiciary disrupted because of Albanian obstruction - Kosovska Mitrovica Serb National Council spokesperson Kabasic
- Serbs protest in Kosovska Mitrovica - Tanjug
- Serb National Council of Kosovo Canton formed in Gracanica
- Orahovac Serbs send protest letter to KFOR condemning IC for allowing KLA terrorism - BETA
- Trepca workers demand to return to work
- 1 DM = 20 Dinars in Montenegro - Montenegrin Bank
- Weather

News Summary

Frowick meets with RS Refugee Minister Dragicevic

US Deputy Envoy for BiH Robert Frowick met with RS Minister for Refugees and Displaced Persons Miladin Dragicevic to discuss property laws. Frowick requested that the property laws be implemented by emptying illegally occupied flats and submitted a list of 800 illegal occupants of other people's flats in Banja Luka to the RS Ministry. He added that Banja Luka is the biggest town in the RS and is the focus of the IC because there are currently 3,000 illegally occupied flats. Dragicevic said that all illegal occupants would be evicted, adding that 1,024 new flats are being built and 352 would be inhabited by the end of January. Two thirds of the collective lodgings would be eliminated by the middle of 2000. Frowick stated that the US would support the OHR in its fight against corruption and that the authorities of both entities should work on this issue, to which RS and BiH Federation Prime Ministers Milorad Dodik and Edhem Bicakcic expressed their readiness. Commenting on the RS National Assembly conclusion on the New York Declaration regarding the border service, Frowick said that the service is necessary and the Declaration must be implemented. Frowick and Dragicevic also discussed Frowick's upcoming talks with Croatian officials and the problems of Serb refugees from Croatia. Frowick also met with SNS President Biljana Plavsic and after the meeting stated that the year 2000 is not only important because of the municipal elections but also because of the scheduled general elections.

US Embassy announcement on New York Declaration

The international press published on 2 December US Ambassador Thomas Miller's statement that the BiH Presidency did not sign the New York Declaration. The US Embassy issued an announcement saying that they did not publish Miller's statement in its entirety where Miller said that the Presidency published the Declaration as a UN document, which makes it obligatory for all three sides. Signatures were not necessary because the Presidency filed the Declaration with the UN Security Council as an official document. The validity and significance of the document are not brought into question and the US expects all sides to adhere to the obligations cited in the Declaration.

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RT RS General Director responds to statement from SRNA acting director

RT RS General Director Andjelko Kozomara reacted to a statement made by SRNA acting director Dragan Davidovic that the agency could allow RT RS to use its reports. Kozomara said that RT RS still does not use SRNA reports because this station is a media outlet that respects legality and legitimacy. The public knows that the RS Supreme Court brought the final decision, without the right of appeal, that Davidovic was illegally appointed acting director of SRNA. Following this decision, it can be concluded that Davidovic's decision dated 6 November, that RT RS should be deprived of SRNA news, was of political and not of a business nature. Davidovic had no legal authority to sign such a decision, which is the exclusive authority of the director, reads the statement.

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