

OHR RTRS News Summary, 29 October 1999

News Headlines

- RS National Assembly holds eighth session
- Members of BiH Presidency meet with German Prime Minister Schroeder and President Johannes Rau
- Members of BiH Presidency meet with German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer
- Dodik and RS Finance Minister Novak Kondic meet with World Bank Vice-president for Southeast Europe and East Asia to discuss realization of World Bank projects in RS
- Barry visits Nezavisne Novine and Nes Radio Director Zeljko Kopanja in Banja Luka hospital
- Barry visits offices of Reporter magazine in Banja Luka
- Barry holds press conference in Banja Luka
- Conditions for free and independent journalism do not exist in BiH – Barry
- UN holds press conference in Banja Luka
- UN spokesperson Alun Roberts denies claims of withdrawal of special IPTF team from Banja Luka
- Banja Luka police examine Kopanja vehicle
- SFOR takes Kopanja vehicle which will be sent to UK for examination by Scotland Yard – SFOR
- International conference on clearing mines in BiH concludes in Slovenia
- 14 countries in conference give \$2 million to RS and BiH Federation for clearing mines, US also donates \$2 million
- Deputy High Representative Ralph Johnson visits Srebrenica to meet with Serb and Bosniak officials
- KFOR Commander Reinhardt meets with envoys of Kosovo Serb National Council in Gracanica to discuss current security situation in Kosovo
- Kosovo Albanian attacks on Serbs do not constitute need for deployment of additional forces to Kosovo for now – US President Clinton
- Solana and Patten hold press conference in Pristina
- Kosovo to be priority for EU – Solana and Patten
- Vollebaek condemns attack on Serb convoy near Pec
- UN to increase number of UN police officers in Kosovo to 4,718 – Annan
- Del Ponte requests Yugoslav officials be cooperative with ICTY team in investigation of war crimes (ICTY team cannot come to Serbia)
- Italian police arrest two Kosovo Albanians possessing smuggled weapons in Italy
- US Government supports Petritsch decision on property law
- BiH Real Property Commission processes 7,351 requests
- BiH Federation privatization process
- 1,453 Serbs and 47 Croats have returned to Bosansko Grahovo – Bosansko Grahovo Mayor Slobodan Sabljic
- Belgrade musician Bajaga holds concert in Sarajevo
- World news
- SRS holds press conference in Banja Luka
- SRS appeals PEC decision – Tadic
- PEC decision is anti-Dayton – Tadic
- Unknown person places explosive next to house of Head of Banja Luka Customs Office Zeljko Kovacevic in village of Babic, near Celinac
- RS National Assembly concludes first part of eighth session
- Continuation of eighth session to be held in Banja Luka 10 November at 11:00
- RS National Assembly adopts plan for law on war veterans, war invalids and families of fallen

soldiers rights

- RS National Assembly adopts plan for law on displaced persons, refugees and returnees in RS
- CD Coalition representatives in RS National Assembly vote against adoption of law on displaced persons, refugees and returnees in RS
- BiH has achieved progress in return of refugees, economic and social reforms and in work of BiH institutions – Jelavic
- We can expect stronger support for BiH membership in European Council – Radisic
- Two Serbs injured in Vitina and Strpci – Church National Boards of Strpci and Vitina
- Majority of Croats leave Kosovska Vitina villages
- World news
- Pharmaceutical seminar held in Kozarska Dubica
- Culture
- Sports and weather

News Summary

RS National Assembly eighth session

RT RS Editor Vedran Skoro reported from the eighth session of the RS National Assembly. Representatives of the RS National Assembly have not yet adopted a draft law on war veterans' rights. During discussion, representatives suggested several amendments to the draft law with the goal of bettering the position of war veterans, war invalids and the families of fallen soldiers. RS Minister for War Veterans, Victims of War and Labor Tihomir Gligoric stated that the law foresees monthly salaries increasing by category. The base monthly salary will be equal to the average salary in the RS. Soldiers of the former Republic of Srpska Krajina that were wounded in RS territory also enjoy rights under this law. During discussion, representatives posed several questions to Gligoric and RS Finance Minister Novak Kondic regarding practical realization of the law. Kondic stated that the RS Government supplied 10.7% of the RS budget in 1999, or 56 million KM, for war veterans-invalid category. The RS budget for 2000 can be increased by 9% on the basis of economic growth and the effectiveness of RS controlling bodies, added Kondic. An RS National Assembly Vice-president was not elected, although Predrag Radic and Munib Jusufovic were nominated. The RS National Assembly Polling Board and Speaker Petar Djokic met with the RT RS leadership and agreed that RT RS will run live coverage of the next points of the agenda, which are a draft law on the rights of war veterans, war invalids and the families of fallen soldiers; draft law on displaced persons, refugees and returnees to the RS; draft law on privatization of public flats; report on the work of public media, as established by the RS National Assembly; information of the incident in the Srpski Brod refinery and a report on realization of the conclusions of preliminary sessions of the RS National Assembly. The Board and RT RS leadership agreed that these points would be broadcast live because of their importance to the RS public. RT RS will broadcast other points of the agenda in its news program.

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