

# **OHR RTRS News Summary, 16 October 1999**

## **News Headlines**

- SDS accepts dismissal of Poplasen – OHR
- SNSD Main Board holds session
- Radisic and RS Defense Minister Milovanovic hold separate meetings with Meigs
- RS Government delegation visits Austria and Germany
- Dodik, Serb Resistance Movement leader Trajkovic and Bishop Artemije to discuss ways of assisting remaining Serbs in Kosovo
- Several KFOR soldiers injured in Kosovska Mitrovica while attempting to prevent Kosovo Albanian passage into Serb part of town
- KFOR condemns aggressive behavior of ethnic Albanian Kosovars in Kosovska Mitrovica
- Kosovo Albanian demonstrations in Kosovska Mitrovica were supposed to be student-led demonstrations, but were taken over by unknown persons – KFOR Commander Reinhardt
- KFOR increases presence in Kosovska Mitrovica
- Protests in Kosovska Mitrovica interrupted by unknown persons – Albanian Republican Party
- Kouchner awards diplomas to cadets of Kosovo Police Academy
- US does not support independent Kosovo, but establishment of democratic institutions – former US Envoy to Kosovo Christopher Hill
- Referendum on Montenegrin independence could be scheduled – Montenegrin Foreign Minister Perovic
- SPO requests Interpol investigation of car-crash killing of four party officials
- Yugoslav Interior Ministry prevents distribution of Banja Luka Reporter weekly in Yugoslavia – Reporter Editor-in-chief Vucinic
- Yugoslavia suffers loss of hundreds of billions of USD during NATO air campaign – Yugoslav and foreign international legal experts
- 86 bodies exhumed in Gorazde, 70 identified – member of BiH Federation Commission for Missing Persons Avlijas
- Mihajlovic is wrong in saying that Karadzic is not war criminal – Klein
- Jelavic informs Deputy High Representative Johnson that SFOR abused its Annex 1A mandate during Mostar action
- Women employed in Mostar Southwest municipal bodies protest to IC in regard to improper behavior of SFOR troops during security operation to confiscate illegal weapons
- SFOR increases presence in Drvar
- World News
- Braca Baruh Choir and Belgrade Chamber Orchestra hold concert in Banja Luka
- Sports
- Weather
- RS Syndicate does not succeed in harmonizing lowest labor wage with cost of living
- Albanian Foreign Minister on official visit to Kosovo
- Movement for Democratic Progress leader Momcilo Perisic accuses current Serbian authorities of fascist behavior towards citizens

## **News Summary**

### **SDS accepts dismissal of Poplasen – OHR**

OHR spokesperson Alexandra Stiglmayer told SRNA that the OHR feels that the SDS has de facto accepted former High Representative Carlos Westendorp's decision to dismiss Nikola Poplasen from the RS presidential post. This is apparent because the SDS took the position that RS Vice-president Mirko Sarovic should assume the presidential

post, she said. Stiglmeier assessed the SDS viewpoint that Sarovic is ready to accept the duties as defined in the RS Constitution as a step forward in resolving the RS presidential crisis. She added that the Serb side is now on the move because Sarovic has not officially confirmed to the High Representative whether or not he is ready to take the post over; nor did he ask for the OHR position on this issue, she concluded.

00:46

### **SNSD Main Board holds session**

The SNSD Main Board held a session in Slatina, near Banja Luka, where they concluded that they could not support the SDS announcement on RS Vice-president Mirko Sarovic taking over the RS presidential function. Main Board Member Slavko Mitrovic stated that the SDS and Sarovic must make their positions clear on the factors which brought about the RS presidential crisis, as well as who bears the responsibility for the crisis. The SDS must also clarify its relationship with the Belgrade regime, former RS President Nikola Poplasen, the SRS and cooperation with the ICTY. Regarding relations within the three-party Sloga Coalition, the SNSD said it believes that all recent coalition activities should be reviewed. The SNSD also said it supports RS Prime Minister and SNSD President Milorad Dodik and added the assessment that the restructuring of the RS Government would now be counter-productive and unnecessary.

01:38

### **Mihajlovic is wrong in saying that Karadzic is not war criminal - Klein**

According to SRNA, UN Special Representative to BiH Jacques Klein stated that Co-chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers Svetozar Mihajlovic is wrong in saying that Radovan Karadzic is not a war criminal. Klein said that he believed that Karadzic still enjoys great political influence in the RS. Mihajlovic denied that Karadzic, the first RS President, still has such influence. He added, "Karadzic is and is not a war criminal, just in the same way as Alija Izetbegovic and Franjo Tudjman are and are not, as well as other politicians who were wartime leaders."

00:45