

OHR RTRS News Summary, 23 September 1999

News Headlines

- Barry meets with Sloga leaders
- SPRS holds press conference on presidential crisis
- Presidential crisis should be solved in accordance to RS Constitution – SPRS Vice President Trivanovic
- Stiglmeier holds press conference
- Dodik places foundation stone for new RS Government and RS National Assembly buildings in Banja Luka
- RS Government holds session on protection of social welfare cases, agriculture, RS budget for 1999 and other economic topics
- Izetbegovic visit to Turkey and Arab countries is private visit – Radisic
- BiH Council of Ministers adopt draft law for refugees and displaced persons in BiH
- BiH Council of Ministers does not adopt its working program
- OHR, OSCE, UN and UNHCR discuss removing obstructions in implementation of property laws in BiH – OHR
- OSCE spokesperson Tanja Domi supports action of Tuzla Canton police in arresting several protesters demonstrating against evictions in Tuzla
- UN spokesperson Douglas Coffmann welcomes opening of Police Academy in Vrace (Sarajevo)
- European Commission supports hot-line for anonymous calls on customs black-marketing
- On Saturday in Gradiska, Croat returnee-owned kiosk explodes near Gradiska Secondary School.
- Gradiska Police find another explosive in Bosniak returnee-owned grill
- Police find letter next to bomb that Serb Liberty Army placed explosive – UN spokesperson Alun Roberts
- US Government and humanitarian organization CRS help reconstruction of 15 houses in Bocac near Banja Luka
- Kosovo Albanians cannot receive independence from Serbia if goal is political stability – Solana
- Two Serb civilians killed – KFOR spokesperson Major Jirgens
- KFOR finds five bodies in last 24 hours – Jirgens
- One KFOR soldier dead and six injured by mines in Kosovo – KFOR
- KLA no longer military power – Jirgens
- Three Kosovo Albanians attack Serb woman in Pristina
- Mass grave discovered in northern Kosovo, probably contains 700 Kosovo Albanians – Deutsche Welle
- Spanish experts do not find any mass grave near Istok municipality – Spanish magazine El Pais
- Kosovo Civil Protection Corps should contribute to peace in Kosovo – Foreign Ministers of US, UK, France, Italy and Germany
- Yugoslav officials request UN Security Council cancel decision on KLA transformation into Kosovo Civil Protection force
- Public campaign for traffic security in BiH
- UN Special Envoy to BiH Klein, IPTF representatives and RS and BiH Federation Interior Ministers participate in traffic security meeting in Sarajevo
- SDP BiH representatives do not want to participate in work of Brcko Assembly because of Farrand decision on non-return of Bosniak and Croat officials to Brcko
- HDZ BiH supports Petritsch decision on canceling parallel institutions in BiH Federation – HDZ BiH spokesperson Tomic
- Croats still leaving Tuzla Canton – Croat representatives in Tuzla
- 264,542 unemployed persons in BiH Federation

- World news
- 15 bodies exhumed in Gorazde, funeral held in Trebinje
- Banja Luka water supply reduction
- Banja Luka Executive Board on water supply in Banja Luka
- Banja Luka International Fashion Fair
- Sports and weather
- Presidential crisis must be resolved in accordance with RS Constitution – Sloga leaders
- Slovenian and UK Ambassadors visit minefield near Pale
- Disposal of mines in Srbac and Sanski Most
- Monument to 12 engine drivers unveiled in Doboj
- EU Parliament criticizes violence in Kosovo
- Two Serbs injured in Lipljane
- Serbs hold protest rally in Lipljan
- Serb medical workers hold protest rally

News Summary

Barry meets with Sloga leaders

Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH Robert Barry met with leaders of the Sloga Coalition Biljana Plavsic, Zivko Radisic and Milorad Dodik in Banja Luka on Thursday. After meeting with Radisic, Barry stated that he supported the statement of RS Vice-president Mirko Sarovic on his readiness for talks on un-blocking the RS presidential office. Barry added that this is a better solution than organizing presidential elections. Barry said that their aim was to leave the political stage in the future and allow BiH leaders to assume responsibility. Barry said that he, Dodik, Radisic and Plavsic were discussing the International Community's priorities of economic reform, return of refugees, implementation of property laws and improved work of the BiH institutions. They also discussed the new election law.

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Stiglmayer holds press conference

OHR spokesperson Alexandra Stiglmayer held a press conference in Banja Luka on Thursday, where she spoke of High Representative Wolfgang Petritsch's statement at the Peace Implementation Council. Regarding the current situation in the RS and the presidential crisis, Stiglmayer confirmed that the OHR and OSCE have an absolutely clear standpoint that presidential elections will not take place this year, but next. According to Stiglmayer, if RS Vice-president Mirko Sarovic decides to assume the presidential duty, he will have to seek Petritsch's approval. Foreign Ministers of the Peace Implementation Council supported Petritsch's strategy. Petritsch will place attention on a self-sustaining market economy, actions against crime and return of refugees and displaced persons. Petritsch asks the BiH leadership and citizens to assume responsibility for their problems and for resolving these problems. The International Community will continue to provide assistance to the BiH leadership, but will not do so forever. The BiH leadership was asked to improve cooperation with the ICTY and support media reforms. The Peace Implementation Council requests Croatia give voters' rights to Serb refugees from Croatia and requests that Yugoslavia not interfere with RS internal policy.

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