

OHR SRT News Summary, 24 February 1999

Headlines

- On the second day of the fifth RS NA session, the deputies discussed behind closed doors the proposed Law on amendments to the Law on intelligence-security services
- In Sarajevo, Chairman Radisic received the British Ambassador, Hand
- A provisional agreement signed on the establishment of railway traffic between the FRY and BiH
- Divided opinions of world officials regarding the result of the Rambouillet peace conference
- 61 die in a plane crash in China

The deputies of RS NA discussed today the proposed Law on amendments to the Law on Intelligence-security services. Before the session, the commissions for constitutional issues and legislation met to discuss the proposed law. There were no official statements, and the session is expected to continue next week.

2:15

NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Gen Wesley Clark stated today in the Hague there was no possibility of trading Kosovo for Republika Srpska, because BiH is an integral country, and shall not be divided.

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The Serbian President, Milan Milutinovic stated he was not satisfied with the results of the Rambouillet conference, adding that the main purpose of the conference was not political agreement, but installing foreign troops in Serbia. He rejected the possibility of deploying foreign troops even as a combination of NATO and Russian troops.

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The head of the Serbian government delegation at Rambouillet talks, Ratko Markovic stated in Paris that the talks did not deliver results because they started from the ceiling, not the floor. In his opinion, Rambouillet negotiators exceeded their mandate, because they were only supposed to reach political agreement and not to discuss implementation issues and presence of international forces.

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The US President, Bill Clinton described the Rambouillet talks as an important step toward fair and lasting peace.

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Russian President Yeltsin said the only possibility for the deployment of Russian troops in Kosmet would be at the request of Yugoslavia, with the approval of the UN Security Council.

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The British foreign minister, Robin Cook remarked positively on Rambouillet talks, adding the Serbs and Kosmet Albanians agreed on 90 percent of the details important for reaching an agreement.

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UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan said that the Rambouillet conference brought agreement on the essence of Kosovo autonomy.

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The NATO Council welcomed progress in Kosovo talks, and recommended that the details of the agreement are worked out during the next three weeks, and the agreement signed as soon as the talks resume.

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The German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder said in the Bundestag that he was satisfied with the results of the Rambouillet talks.

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China opposes any military intervention against the FRY, a sovereign state, said the Chinese foreign minister.
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The French President, Jacques Chirac called for new efforts to convince the Serbs and Albanians to make further concessions in order for the agreement to be finalised and implemented.
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The Austrian foreign minister, Wolfgang Schuessel and EU special envoy, Wolfgang Petrich expressed satisfaction with "halfway" results of the Rambouillet talks.
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Albanian Government welcomed the outcome of Rambouillet.
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A member of the Kosovo Albanian delegation, Jakub Krasniqi said in Pristina that the draft agreement is a preparation for the final establishment of the status of Kosovo, after a three year period.
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The Kosovo Albanians will form a provisional government, based on the agreement of the members of the so-called KLA, Ibrahim Rugova's Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, Redzep Cosja's Albanian United Democratic Movement and independent representatives. The PM will be a member of the so-called KLA. The so-called provisional government will function until the free elections in Kosovo.
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UN peace forces denied reports of the FRY army gathering troops on the border with FYROM.
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Socialist Party of the RS welcomes the decision to continue with the Rambouillet talks on March 15.
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Representatives of the BiH and the FRY Railway Corporations signed a provisional agreement on establishing railway traffic between the two countries.
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BiH Presidency Chairman, Zivko Radisic talked today with the British Ambassador, Graham Hand about the political situation in the BiH and the DA Implementation.
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The second Fair of the FBiH Economy was opened today in Banja Luka. FBiH PM Edhem Bicakcic, RS PM Milorad Dodik and DHR Miguel Arias attended.
2:35