

OHR SRT News Summary, 16 February 1999

Headlines

- Radisic, Djokic and Dodik left for Vienna; Radisic testified before the Arbitration Tribunal
- There is no Republika Srpska without Brcko, the standpoint of the Coalition "Sloga"
- A progress achieved in the negotiations on Kosovo
- Ocalan extradited to Turkey; Kurds blocked Greek embassies throughout Europe

The day before the last day of the arbitration process on the area of Brcko was marked by the opposite testimonies of the BiH Presidency Chairman Zivko Radisic and the member of the BiH Presidency Alija Izetbegovic. The former emphasized that Brcko constitutionally and legally belongs to the RS, whereas the latter announced dissatisfaction of the majority people with a solution, which would confirm it. While the Bosniak member of the BiH Presidency was testifying, the members of the BiH Federation delegation, representatives of the Croat people, were not in the arbitration hall.

2:45

There is no BiH without stable entities and every other status of Brcko, except for the one within the RS, could cause new problems and incidents, which means disturbing of that stability, was underlined at today's press conference of the Coalition "Sloga". The standpoint of the Coalition "Sloga" was supported by the representatives of the Serb Radical Party of the RS and the Coalition for King and Homeland as well.

2:55

The BiH CoM Co-chairman Svetozar Mihajlovic expects that the Arbitration Tribunal will adopt, as the final decision, the one according to which Brcko will belong to the RS. Today's statement of the other Co-chairman Haris Silajdzic claiming that he will resign if Brcko belongs to the RS was assessed by Mihajlovic as a propagandistic move aimed at exerting pressures before the final arbitration award is made.

0:30

At the gathering, which took place in Banja Luka today, several thousands of citizens demonstrated the support to the RS delegation in the arbitration process. Report on it.

1:30

Kosovo-related news. In the Rambouillet chateau near Paris, where the meeting aimed at finding a political solution of the Kosmet crisis has been held for already ten days, the analysis of the proposals on the economic development of that province, according to the so-called Annex 4a, has been continued today. The very fact, that the economic issues are discussed, is assessed as a positive sign in the diplomatic circles. Follows a more detailed report on the negotiations in Rambouillet and the related activities.

3:25

News from the world.

5:35

Regarding the statement of the European Union Commissioner Hans Van den Broek that a protectorate has been introduced in BiH, the OHR spokesperson Christian Palme stated at today's press conference in Banja Luka that such statements are groundless. Palme went on saying that Carlos Westendorp has certain competencies, which were given to him on the basis of the authorizations that result from the Dayton Peace Agreement.

0:30

A report on today's press conference of the international organizations held in Sarajevo. At the end of today's press conference, the SFOR spokesperson Sheena Thomson announced for Friday in Sarajevo a press conference of the NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and the NATO Commander to Europe Wesley Clark.

1:25

News from the BiH Federation.

1:30

At today's regular press conference of the SNS in Banja Luka, the Secretary General Branko Cvijic presented the standpoints of this party regarding the working out of the new Election Law in BiH.

1:30

At today's session, the Banja Luka Municipal Assembly adopted the program of the work for this year as well as the report on the work of the Executive Board for 1998. Follows a more detailed report on it.

1:15