

# **OHR SRT News Summary, 17 November 1998**

## **Headlines**

- The President of the RS Nikola Poplasen visiting Srpsko Sarajevo
- The Government of the RS considers a joint meeting with the FRY Government on payment operations necessary
- American administration against the proposed RS Government PM designate
- Kosovo – tomorrow’s potential peace talks
- While military inspectors return to Baghdad, the US continue the threat of military intervention

The RS President Nikola Poplasen talked with officials of the Srpsko Sarajevo region on development prospects and humanitarian issues.

2:25

The RS Government convened today to discuss the cessation of payment operations with the FRY, President Poplasen’s decision to annul the former RS President’s decision on forming the commissariat for the municipality of Milici, report of the Republic commission on Brcko and the increase in the price of electricity. It was also announced that the EU granted 12 million ECU and 26 million DM to the RS, while Italy donated 200 buses.

2:35

The RS President Nikola Poplasen confirmed today that his choice of PM designate respects the very different suggestions of the political parties, and also the Constitution and the laws of the RS as well as the election results.

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The US State Department condemns President Poplasen’s decision to appoint Dragan Kalinic as PM designate and warns this could affect international aid to the RS and the Brcko arbitration, TANJUG Agency reports.

0:55

“Appointing the new RS PM is not going to affect the arbitration decision on Brcko”, said Chris Bennett, the ICG Director.

0:25

The main topic of today’s political party press conferences was the election of the new Government. The SNS (Serb National Alliance) thinks Dodik should be the PM designate, the Serb Coalition for the RS suggests a new candidate should Kalinic fail to gain parliamentary support, but they would not reveal his name, while the Independent Social-Democrat Party (SNSD) thinks the new Government should be formed from the ‘Sloga’ Coalition parties before the Madrid Conference.

3:40

The RS NA Speaker Petar Djokic convened a consultation meeting with the parliamentary party leaders for Wednesday, November 18 in Banja Luka.

0:25

Kosovo-related news

2:25

The international organisations’ press conference in Sarajevo – OHR disappointed about the delay in signing of the Agreement on Special Relations between BiH Federation and Croatia.

00:50