

# **OHR SRT News Summary, 13 November 1998**

## **Headlines**

- The RS President Nikola Poplasen received a WB delegation; we will continue with the realisation of the current development programme, WB Country Director Christiaan Poortman stated after the meeting
- Supreme Defence Council: a letter by HR Carlos Westendorp and ex-SFOR Commander General Eric Shinseki partially acceptable; the RS Army is to be commanded by the RS President on the basis of the Constitution and law
- RS Government: by changing the parity of the KM to the Dinar, the monetary system of the FRY not disrupted; cessation of payment operations mutually detrimental
- Due to the cessation of payment operations with FRY, SDS requested the resignation of the Government

The members of the Supreme Defence Council accepted, at today's first session chaired by the RS President Nikola Poplasen, a unique position on the letter by HR Carlos Westendorp and ex-SFOR Commander General Eric Shinseki. Speaking about the letter regarding the appointment of officers of the RS Army, General Galic stressed that the majority of points in the letter were acceptable; as for the others, there are constitutional provisions which the RS Army and the Supreme Command must observe. The RS Army is to be commanded, at war and in peace, by the RS President on the basis of the Constitution and law, Galic stressed addressing the journalists.

1:20

The decision to stop integral payment operations with the RS by the FRY NB Clearing House takes effect as of today. Considering that this decision has been the subject of numerous speculations, the RS Government issued a press release: "...The RS Government has not been informed in writing about the cessation of payment operations, or about the reasons for such a move...With this measure, the RS Government does not interfere with the monetary system in FRY... The RS Government concludes that the cessation of payment operations is detrimental to the FRY and RS. Thus, it expects this important issue to be resolved soon."

2:30

The RS President Nikola Poplasen and Vice-President Mirko Sarovic talked today with the WB delegation led by the Country Director Christiaan Poortman. Sarovic said that the meeting analysed what the WB had done in the last ten months and what its plans were for the next year.

3:10

After meeting the U.S. Ambassador Richard Kauzlarich, the RS President Nikola Poplasen stated that he talked about the key issues relating to the implementation of the DA also with other high representatives of the country signatories of the DA. The inevitable subject of today's meeting was the difficult and complex problem of refugees and DPs as well as the numerous issues from the field of political and economic affairs that, as Poplasen said, the RS is going to face in the future.

1:15

The RS Government has realised a successful cooperation with representatives of the WB through programmes of economic reform, it was concluded at today's meeting between Prime Minister Dodik and WB Country Director Christiaan Poortman. The meeting, as Dodik said, also discussed the possible strategy of RS development after the next donors' conference for FBiH and RS which is to be held at the beginning of the next year. Dodik talked today with the Russian and Slovenian Ambassadors to BiH, Filip Filipovic Sidorski and Drago Mirosic respectively. According to a press release from Dodik's office, the talks referred to the improvement of mutual relations, primarily in the economic field.

1:54

The BiH Presidency Chairman Zivko Radisic talked with the WB delegation today. "That was a chance for us to

assess the situation in BiH and RS at a stage when the first phase of the DA implementation is about to end and we are to enter the new phase of the so-called self-sustainable economy..”

2:06

The RS NA Speaker Petar Djokic met today in Banja Luka with the Russian and Slovenian Ambassadors to BiH, Filip Filipovic Sidorski and Drago Mirosic respectively. The Slovenian Ambassador Mirosic expressed interest in the forming of the RS Government, stressing that it was necessary to keep the course set by the present Government. Ambassador Mirosic announced the opening of the office of the Slovenian Embassy in Banja Luka in the near future. The RS National Speaker Djokic and the Russian Ambassador talked about deepening cooperation between the RS and Russian Federation.

1:13

The RS President Nikola Poplasen and Vice-President Mirko Sarovic organised a reception in Banja Luka this evening, on the occasion of their appointment, which was attended by many domestic and international officials. Representatives of the FRY authorities were at the reception as well. The majority of the foreign diplomats boycotted this reception due to the presence of the Vice-President of the Serbian Government Vojislav Seselj.

2:49

The Federation Government will compensate 259 Serb households from the 10 villages of the Glamoc municipality on whose land the range for training the Federation army is being built, the acting Federation Minister of Defence Miroslav Prce stated at today's press conference held in Glamoc. The Federal Government has signed a statement by which it guarantees compensation for the appropriated land, Prce said.

2:08

The SDS, at today's press conference, requested the resignation of the RS Government. The reason – the cessation of payment operations with FRY. According to Cavic, such an act represents conscious distancing of the RS and FRY and violation of the application of the agreement on special parallel relations of the FRY and RS.

2:20