OHR SRT News Summary, 26 July 1998

Headlines

- 22nd session of the RS Government
- New attacks by Albanian terrorists in Kosovo
- RS Government describes arrest of Vuckovic brothers as a serious blow for democratic changes
- Countries of South-Asia met in Manila.

A session of the RS Government was held in Banja Luka today chaired by the Prime Minister Dodik. After the session, the Government issued a statement saying that there were many issues requiring urgent measures by state authorities aimed at resolving concrete problems. This particularly goes for the work of judicial authorities which will be discussed at the next session of the Government. The session went on to conclude that problems affecting living conditions of people in some municipalities should, also, be urgently resolved. 2:39

Serb Patriarch Pavle today served a holy liturgy at the Monastery of St. Arhandjel in Prizren celebrating 800th anniversary of the Hilandar Monastery and, also, 650th anniversary of this monastery. 0:21

Kosovo-related news 4:05

0:31

The Serb Renewal Movement (political party led by Vuk Draskovic) today released a statement saying that all platforms on the resolution of Kosovo crisis disregarding the fact that this issue was a Serbian internal issue were going to fail. The statement went on to say that broad autonomy for the area of Kosovo, as anticipated in the FRY Constitution, was not disputable, along with the willingness of Serbia to guarantee national, political and other rights for Kosovo Albanians.

Following the recent arrest of Vuckovic brothers in Prijedor, the RS Government have issued a press statement sharply condemning the irresponsible behavior of <u>SFOR</u> troops during the arrest, which incurred political damage for IC agencies involved in implementing the DA. "Such arrests only additionally upset citizens of the RS and create conditions for its political de-stabilization". The statement went on to say that the Government hoped that the IC would take necessary measures to prevent similar events from reoccurring and punish those responsible. 0:58

The Association of expelled citizens of Sanski Most who want to remain in the RS also issued a public release describing the arrest of the two brothers from Prijedor as a rude and thoughtless act. 0:27

The <u>SFOR</u> Spokesperson for Region North-West has stated that, under the DA, international troops should be relieved from any legal liability for their acts in support of the work of the Hague Tribunal, and that the arrests in Prijedor were carried out in line with the <u>SFOR</u> mandate.

0:32

27th July was celebrated in a number of places of Semberija and elsewhere in the RS today. This day is celebrated every year as the day of the beginning of resistance of BH people against fascism in the Second World War. 2:06

OSCE-sponsored conference entitled "Women candidates – Parliamentary women" ended in Laktasi today. One of the main goals of the conference was to prepare local women for parliamentary life in the RS aimed at increasing their presence in the election period. Namely, the OSCE PEC introduced a new rule according to which there must be three women amongst the first ten names in lists of candidates of all political parties.

Independent media in the BH Federation today carry articles claiming that BH institutions will not be established in the Hercegovina-Neretva Canton and the Central Bosnian Canton for as long as institutions of the former Croatian Republic of Herceg-Bosnia and the former Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina still function there. Another attempt to merge institutions recently failed, after the Croat side had boycotted a joint meeting scheduled by the Deputy High Representative, Hanns Schumacher, in Travnik.

1:55