

OHR SRT News Summary, 18 May 1998

Headlines

- President Plavsic's statement in New York – Brcko must remain part of the RS
- Prime Minister Dodik attended a meeting of the Socialist International in Oslo today
- The House of Representatives failed to accept a proposal on the design of the BiH coat of arms
- The Yugoslav Parliament House of Republics passed a vote of no-confidence against Prime Minister Kontic

On the fourth day of her visit to the United States, President Plavsic today gave a distinctive speech before representatives of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. In her introductory note, Plavsic stressed that the Dayton Agreement represented a comprehensive package providing development opportunities for the three communities in BiH. However, Plavsic added that it was unacceptable to talk about an arbitration process that would take the town of Brcko away from the RS.

2:06

The RS delegation led by Prime Minister Dodik is currently participating, in a two-day meeting of the Socialist International in Oslo on how to improve the peace processes in BiH, Northern Ireland and the Middle East. Referring to the peace process in Bosnia, Pierre Morreau, Chairman of the Socialist International, stated that a lot of reconstruction work had been done in BiH primarily due to significant efforts and work of social-democrats. In addressing the session, Dodik said that the RS Government had, in the last 100 days, done a lot by encouraging RS citizens and pointing at possible prospects of economic development in the RS.

3:27

The House of Republics of the FRY Parliament, at their session today, passed a vote of no-confidence against Prime Minister Kontic and his Government. It was explained that the FRY needed a person with commitments that were defined in a more clear and decisive way.

2:21

Members of the BiH Presidency today met with the Canadian Prime Minister, Chrétien. Momcilo Krajsnik assessed the meeting as positive and stated that it focused on the implementation of the DA.

2:14

The BiH House of Representatives and the House of Peoples, at their respective sessions today, failed to adopt a proposal on the design of the BiH coat of arms. The next few days will show whether the High Representative will again make the final decision, as was the case with the BiH flag recently. The agenda also included a discussion on the necessity of passing a law on refugees and DPs. The BiH CoM was given 15 days to draft a law on the return of refugees and present it to this body. Unlike SRT cameramen, Sarajevo TV crews were allowed to provide live coverage of the session.

3:52

Momcilo Krajsnik met with a special representative of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Paul Monory, on the reconstruction of telecommunications in the RS and the BH Federation. A concrete agreement is expected to be signed shortly between the two entities and the Bank.

1:15

Brussels media reported poorly today on the discovery in Kosovo of an armament warehouse of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army.

0:37

A meeting between OSCE officials and representatives of political parties from the RS and the Federation took place in Sokolac today to discuss the registration of political parties, coalitions and individuals for the September elections, along with other election-related issues.

2:39

After two months' absence, Supervisor Farrand today held a press conference in Brcko. Farrand also met with respective representatives of the Sarajevo Canton and the Brcko municipality. The meeting stressed their joint commitment to work to ensure a two-way return of refugees and DPs.

2:43

A de-mining school started work today at the Kozara barracks in Banja Luka. The school was opened thanks to a significant donation by the U.S. Government.

1:50

International representatives in BiH today reacted to the appointment of new HDZ leadership stressing that it would not significantly change the predominant policy of the Bosnian HDZ in terms of the implementation of the DA. David Foley stated that the IC had concerns regarding the HDZ adopted programme declaration, the cantonisation issue being the most serious.

1:06

The Croatian Ambassador to Sarajevo, Darinko Bago, at a press conference in Banja Luka today, stated that the Croatian Government had passed legislation ensuring the safe return of people who had left Croatia during the war there. Stressing that returns should be of a voluntary and individual nature, Bago announced that a protocol on the return of refugees would shortly be signed with the RS and the BiH Federation.

0:47