

OHR SRT News Summary, 30 march 1998

Headlines

- President Plavsic and Prime-Minister Dodik in separate visits received Deputy HR Hanns Schumacher
- Agreement reached in Doboj on Forming a Public Corporation of Railroad Transportation in BiH
- Parties and independent candidates obliged to pay registration fee for the forthcoming elections
- Yeltsin will not run for the next presidential election

President Plavsic and Deputy HR Hanns Schumacher talked about the frequent arrests of Serbs taking place in FBiH and other issues pertaining to the DA. President Plavsic stressed that it was very difficult to build the trust needed to provide freedom of movement, assessing that in the last few months a certain progress had been made in that respect. Deputy HR Hanns Schumacher said that the investigation being conducted against the arrested Serbs is in accordance with the regulations, but that, in the case of further possible arrests, Hague Tribunal permission would be necessary.

2:40

RS Prime-Minister Dodik received Deputy HR Hanns Schumacher. They exchanged views on the implementation of the DA and functioning of the RS municipal authorities, according to a press release from Dodik's Cabinet. 20" RS Prime-Minister Dodik and FBiH Prime-Minister Edhem Bicakcic agreed in Doboj on the formation of a public corporation of railroad transportation in BiH that would consist of the RS and FBiH railroad companies. Dodik announced the signing of the Railroad Corporation agreement would take place next week.

2:15

A French parliamentary delegation arrived in Belgrade today with the aim, during their five-day visit, of familiarising themselves with the situation in Kosovo and submitting a report to the French Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee. Sadako Ogata expressed concern that the possible escalation of conflict in Kosovo could cause an increased number of refugees from this area.

0:20

A Swedish Government delegation was in BL and Prijedor today, trying to find solutions to the problems of refugees and DPs presently living in Sweden. The Swedish Government announced that through donations they would contribute to the creation of the conditions necessary for the return of those people. The Swedish delegation, together with the Swedish Ambassador to BiH, was in Prijedor today. They talked with delegations from the municipalities of Prijedor and Sanski Most about realising conditions for the return of refugees and DPs who wanted to return, as well as those who wanted to remain in their present location.

4:35

At a press conference held in SA today, an OSCE representative announced that every independent candidate who was planning to take part in the forthcoming general elections in BiH would have to pay DM 500, and every party double that amount. A spokesman for IPTF informed journalists about the arrest of Dragan Kremenovic, an RS citizen who was arrested on March 28, 1998, by police of the FBiH from the SA Canton. The IPTF spokesman also said that the IPTF representative visited Kremenovic in the Central SA prison, where they assured themselves that he was in a good medical state. The reason for his arrest was allegedly a traffic offence committed by Kremenovic before the war. A spokesman for OHR assessed the return of refugees to SA as positive progress and emphasised that Elisabeth Rehn will insist in future on the implementation of the DA and especially on the reconstruction of the police forces in the entire BiH.

1:25

The "Cajavec" Holding Company from BL will produce 25,000 new licence plates; an amount estimated by the contract made with EC representatives.

0:35

The RS Commission for the Exchange of War Prisoners and Civilians and an expert team identified bodies of 7 RS

Army members. The bodies were exhumed in Carevic Polje near Jajce.

1:00

The Croatia and BiH Ministers of Foreign Affairs signed an agreement on establishing the Interstate Co-operation Council in Zagreb.

0:44

The HR Carlos Westendorp has sent a letter to Croatian officials in FBiH, supporting the position of the UN mission to BiH and the IPTF Commissioner regarding the process of reconstruction of the police in this entity, said Simon Haselock.

0:10

SFOR units performed an airdrop action in Stolac this morning in the framework of the exercise Dynamic Response 98 which is being held in BiH from March 24-April 7.

1:55