

OHR SRT News Summary, 18 Feb. 1998

Headlines

- Meeting Plavsic – Aksenionok in Banja Luka, visit of Russian Foreign Minister announced
- Prime Minister Dodik starts series of talks with American officials in Washington
- The White House reveals documents on some of Iraq's weapons

In Banski Dvor, RS President Biljana Plavsic received Alexander Aksenionok, Special Envoy of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Although they talked about the current political situation and the implementation of the DPA in general, the main issue discussed at the meeting was the issue of Brcko, which will also be discussed at a session of the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board to be held in Brussels on 27 February. Mr Aksenionok also announced a visit of the Russian Foreign Minister, Yevgeni Primakov, to the RS in the second half of March.

1:15

The five-day diplomatic visit to the USA of an RS government delegation, headed by Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, began with a meeting with the US Special Envoy for the Balkans, Robert Gelbard. Afterwards the RS Prime Minister was to meet with representatives of the World Bank and of the American Ministry of Finance respectively. He is also to hold talks with some members of the US Congress and Senate.

1:00

RS Defence Minister, Manojlo Milovanovic, talked today in Banja Luka with a representative of the Greek Embassy in Sarajevo about the forthcoming visit of the Greek Ambassador.

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The NATO Council decided in Brussels today that the international peacekeeping force, SFOR, currently located in B&H, should be engaged after 30 June under the same name. Although the expiration date was not precisely defined, it was agreed that new steps were to be agreed every six months.

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Explaining that he was not authorised to comment on it, OHR Spokesperson Simon Haselock did not confirm or deny information that the Hague Tribunal had allowed the arrested Goran Vasic to be tried in the RS. Vasic is accused by the Federal authorities of murdering the former Vice-president of the B&H Federation government, Hakija Turajlic. According to his statement at the press conference in Sarajevo, new B&H passports will be printed with the symbols of the entities by the end of March.

0:30

"Two Serbs, who voluntarily surrendered to the Hague Tribunal during the weekend, entered not-guilty pleas before the court", news agencies reported.

0:10

RS Interior Minister, Milovan Stankovic, stated in Doboj today that politics were obstructing the work of the police, and that all party-oriented members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs would have enough time to return their party membership cards, otherwise they would be given back their work documents.

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At the today's press conference of the SPRS held in Banja Luka, the President of the party, Zivko Radisic, assessed that the work of the new RS government so far had been very successful.

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