

OHR SRT News Summary, 17 Feb. 1998

Headlines

- Prime Minister Dodik leaves for Washington
- B&H Presidency holds a session in Sarajevo
- Deputy High Representative in Brcko
- International fashion fair opens in Belgrade
- Diplomatic efforts regarding solution of American-Iraq crisis

At the invitation of the American government the RS Prime Minister, with his assistants, paid the first official visit to Washington, where he will hold meetings with the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and the US Special Envoy for the Balkans, Robert Gelbard. During their five-day stay in the USA, representatives of the RS Government will hold talks with World Bank officials about a \$ 20 million aid package to the RS.

2:05

RS Vice-president Dragoljub Mirjanic talked tonight in Banja Luka with representatives of a British corporation which presented a project to equip universities in the RS. A similar project should be realised in primary and secondary schools which the Ministry of Education is in charge of.

1:25

The Deputy High Representative, Jacques Klein, visited Brcko today, when he assessed the development of democratic processes in Brcko as positive, expressing hope that the final arbitration decision was going to be a fair one. Afterwards he went to Bijeljina, where he held talks with the Bijeljina Mayor on various issues. Afterwards both Mr Klein and the Mayor of Bijeljina expressed satisfaction with the fact that the eastern part of the RS was not being neglected by the IC.

2:05

In today's talks in Doboj with the Deputy Commissioner of the IPTF to B&H, RS Minister of Interior, Milovan Stankovic, expressed dissatisfaction with the way in which the restructuring of the RS police had been carried out so far and insisted that the process should be centralised.

1:25

"B&H passports will be printed by a German State printing house. They will be of high quality and, in accordance with the law on B&H travel documents, will also bear on the cover the name of the entity, as well as the name of B&H". This was announced in a statement issued by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Communication of B&H.

0:35

The three-member B&H Presidency held a session in Zemaljski muzej in Sarajevo today. A B&H foreign affairs policy was adopted, and many other issues were discussed, such as negotiating international contracts, dual citizenship, opening of the Croatian Consulate in Banja Luka, budget of common bodies etc. Many of those issues will be discussed at the next session as well.

0:40

The Council of NATO is to make a decision tomorrow on forming new peace-keeping forces in both the RS and the B&H Federation. These forces are going to replace the 35,000 SFOR soldiers at the end of June. The final decision should be made on Friday, 20 February, after a meeting with Russia and representatives of non-NATO countries whose soldiers are within SFOR.

1:15

The voluntary surrender to the Hague Tribunal of the two Serbs from the RS, Miroslav Tadic and Milan Savic, is still causing a lot of reaction from world opinion.

0:55

A Commission for the review of decisions on apartments in Sarajevo is to re-examine all decisions made by the B&H authorities concerning temporary abandoned apartments. The commission is to be formed very soon and, following negotiations between the Federal authorities and OHR in Sarajevo, should consist of representatives of the Federal government, OHR and UNHCR.

0:55

Regarding the statement of OHR Spokesperson, Simon Haselock, that international experts team will exhume all mass graves and carry out identification processes in one place, members of the RS State Commission for Exchange of POWs and Missing Civilians stated that they had suggested that two expert teams be established – one for the RS and the other for the B&H Federation. Activities in the field are to start in March and last until November. However, the identification process has been carried out daily.

2:40