

OHR SRT News Summary, 16 Feb. 1998

Headlines

- Head of German Diplomacy Klaus Kinkel in an official visit to RS
- RS President Biljana Plavsic – Beginning of the establishment of good relations between Serb and German peoples
- RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik – Brcko must remain within RS
- German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel – We want the Serb people to have their place in Europe
- Lieutenant General Momir Talic – New Commander of RS Army Headquarters

The Head of German diplomacy Klaus Kinkel arrived in an official visit to the RS. The delegation of the German government headed by Klaus Kinkel held separate meetings with the RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik and the RS President Biljana Plavsic. During open and friendly talks a few issues were discussed like the post war and economic reconstruction of the RS, refugee return, the Brcko issue and the issue of the indicted war criminals. "The road to Europe is opened for the RS because it cooperates with the IC and Serbs must take a position that belongs to them in the Union of the European Nations", Kinkel underlined. "Both Germany and the whole EU are going to support the RS", that was Kinkel's message to the RS residents. Afterwards, he met with Jovo Turanjanin, the RS Minister of Religions, the Banja Luka Mufti Ibrahim Halilovic and the Banja Luka Catholic Bishop Franjo Komarica. For some unknown reasons the representatives of the Serb Orthodox Church were not present at the meeting. Mr Kinkel had a short meeting with the IPTF representatives as well. After meetings Klaus Kinkel, Biljana Plavsic and Milorad Dodik held a joint press conference at which more than 100 national and international journalists were present. The talks were assessed as very successful ones.

7:35

The RS Supreme Defense Council held its session chaired by the Supreme Army Commander, the RS President Biljana Plavsic, in Banja Luka tonight. Upon the proposal of the Minister of Defense, and in accordance with her constitutional authorizations, the RS President appointed Lieutenant General Momir Talic the new Commander of the RS Army Headquarters. This appointment was supported by the RS Supreme Defense Council.

1:10

"A voluntary surrender of the two Serbs from the RS, Miroslav Tadic and Milan Simic to the Hague Tribunal was the result of a combination of threats, pressures and military operations conducted by the IC during the past months", was stated in a statement issued by that international institution.

1:35

NATO members considered in details, in Brussels today, the plan on forming the future international forces which would stay in B&H by the September elections. Within these troops there will be also a special unit which will be in charge of public security keeping. The future troops in B&H will include about 35,000 soldiers and their key task will be to guarantee the implementation of all civilian aspects of the DPA.

0:55

The OHR Spokesperson Simon Haselock announced at the today's press conference in Sarajevo that the European Commission was going to allocate 200,000 ECU for the SRT reconstruction. "The money will be used for the equipment purchase and personnel training", Haselock was more precised. According to him the Agreement on the support to the SRT in its transforming into an open, independent and public institution which would function in accordance with the western democratic standards was achieved with the RS Government on Friday.

0:30

The RS delegation headed by the RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik will leave tomorrow for an official visit to the USA. The RS delegation is to hold meetings with the US State Secretary Madeleine Albright, and a US Special Envoy for the Balkans Robert Gelbard. During the five day stay in the USA the RS delegation is also to hold talks with the World Bank officials about a new project on support to the RS reconstruction and development. The total amount of

credits to be discussed is \$ 20 million, out of which \$ 5 million will be allocated by the World Bank, and the rest \$ 15 million by other donors.

1:30

German businessmen talked today in Banja Luka with the RS economic delegation about the possibilities of an economic cooperation. With the aim of establishing a more concrete cooperation, a meeting of German and RS businessmen was proposed to be held in June.

1:30

The session of the Commission for the Constitutional Issues, chaired by the RS Parliament Speaker Dragan Kalinic, was held in Bijeljina today.

0:45