

# **OHR SRT News Summary, 03 Dec. 1997**

## **Headlines**

- President Plavsic tomorrow meets with diplomatic heads of Germany and France
- Gelbard's arrival in the Balkans is not officially confirmed
- NATO Defence Ministers in Brussels decide: international troops to remain in BiH even after end of present mandate
- Counting of ballots from abroad began in Lukavica this morning
- International convention imposing a ban on the production of mines signed in Ottawa

President Plavsic will meet tomorrow with the diplomatic heads of Germany and France. This meeting is in the framework of preparations for the forthcoming conference in Bonn.

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At the same time, Gelbard is due to start his seven-day European tour, visiting the RS, FBiH and also FRY. The USA Embassy Information service in Belgrade was not able to confirm this morning the news on Gelbard's arrival in the former Yugoslav republics, because official confirmation from the State Department hasn't arrived yet. However, his meetings with the members of the Presidency of BiH are confirmed, as well as the meeting with President Plavsic.

1:15

The counting of ballots from abroad should be finalised by the end of the week. 80,770 ballots, classified in 10 categories, arrived from the OSCE centre in Vienna at the Srpsko Sarajevo Ballot Counting Centre.

0:50

NATO Defence Ministers have decided that SFOR forces will remain in BiH. They expressed their satisfaction at the progress in realising peace, trust and a balance in the arms level in accordance with the DA. The Canadian Minister of Defence stated today that NATO and Russia decided to implement the DA fully.

2:02

### **Party block**

The SNS vice-president, Ostojica Knezevic, at today's press conference expressed satisfaction at the results that this party gained at the recently held parliamentary elections. He pointed out that the RS Government had fired certain cadres only because their names were on the SNS candidate lists. He said that he had also informed HR Westendorp of this indecent Government behaviour.

Aleksa Buha stated in Zvornik today that this party will have the leading role even in the future Parliament, though the voting results from the Federation and abroad had not been announced yet. He also announced the possibility of joining the coalition with SRS and maybe with SPRS.

1:50

Krajisnik and the SFOR Commander's New Assistant, British General Pike, expressed in Pale today readiness to continue the successful co-operation between the multi-ethnic divisions and the RS leadership.

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Even today's session of the BiH House of People passed without concrete agreement. The BiH House of People has not yet adopted the law on travel documents. The HR, Carlos Westendorp, warned earlier that in such a case, meaning if the parties cannot agree on this, he will make decisions on adopting the key laws which are necessary for economic and political reintegration of BiH.

0:45

Canada is the first country to sign the agreement on imposing a ban on the production and storage of contact

mines. Another 121 countries will sign the agreement today and tomorrow.

1:25

The UN Security Council in 1992 adopted a Declaration by which one week in December is proclaimed to be the week of invalids. After the war ended, the Co-ordination board of invalid organisations, which includes several councils and associations of invalids, started to function. The seat of this board is in BL and its task is to realise contacts between its members and the RS Government.

1:24