

# **OHR SRT News Summary, 23 Oct. 1997**

## **Headlines**

- President Plavsic talked with the American Ambassador in BiH, Richard Kauslarich
- The final decision on the status of Brcko area will be made on March 15th 1998 in Vienna
- Members of the Council of Ministers today agreed on the text of a decision on the signing of credit and special accounts
- The elections in Algeria will be held with reinforced security measures

President Plavsic today received in Banski dvor the American Ambassador in BiH, Richard Kauslarich. After the meeting, Kauslarich told journalists that the dominant subject was the forthcoming parliamentary elections. He added that the USA will give full support to the OSCE in Europe in terms of organising the elections.

President Plavsic talked in BL with Mathew Daily, Deputy Special Envoy of President Clinton for the Balkans, today. After the meeting the American diplomat informed journalists that the main subject was the forthcoming parliamentary elections in the RS.

Kauslarich stated that he had presented to President Plavsic the support which would be given by USA to democratic and free elections for the National Assembly of the RS. "The media will have a very important role regarding this matter" said Kauslarich. "We will do everything in order to provide non-party and above all independent elections" he added. Also, they discussed the return of refugees. Kauslarich recently discussed this issue with the representatives of the Federation.

1:21

Dragoljub Mirjanic stated today that the final decision on the status of the Brcko area will be made on March 15th 1998 in Vienna. "The main subject of this conference is determination of the time frame for the future course of the arbitrage process. We agreed that FBiH should submit a documented appeal concerning the implementation of the decision on the status of Brcko area by December 1st 1997, and the RS should reply to this appeal by December 31st." said Mirjanic. Regarding the statement made by the president of the SDS, Aleksa Buha, who claimed Mirjanic was still a SDS member, Mirjanic said at today's press conference: "Buha said I was still a member of the Main Board of SDS, but I claim not to be for over three months now. I do not attend meetings of the Main Board anymore, I don't have any contact with them. You also know that I sent that letter of support to Mrs. President two months ago. So, according to that... no, his statement is not true."

2:50

The Council of Ministers of BiH agreed on the text of a decision on signing credit and special accounts. Boro Botic announced that members of the Council of Ministers will meet Hans Van den Broek, Commissioner of the EU for Foreign Affairs, on Tuesday, Oct. 28th, reports SRNA.

0:23

The Supreme Commander of NATO forces informed the NATO Council in Brussels that the efforts of Carlos Westendorp and SFOR with regard to reaching an agreement with Krajisnik concerning the establishment of a new board of the RTV Network of the RS are so far showing no results.

0:25

Aleksa Buha will be the bearer of the candidate list of SDS at the forthcoming elections. According to his words, SDS will concentrate its activities in the western part of the RS.

0:37

The bearer of the candidate list of SNS Biljana Plavsic will be the vice president of the party, Ostoja Knezevic. The Main Board adopted the list of 83 candidates for delegates in the National Assembly at today's session.

"In the programme of SNS there is nothing special with reference to the other parties, except that we are trying to

overcome these difficult times without endangering the people” said Plavsic.

1:32

President of SPRS, Zivko Radisic, denied the statement made by Milan Ninkovic, Minister of Defence in the RS Government and president of the municipal board of SDS in Doboj, who said yesterday that SDS, radicals and socialist, will join the coalition and take part in the elections together. “We never discussed any coalition whatsoever with SDS. We are taking part in the elections independently. They (SDS) are defeated now and are trying to save themselves with these kinds of statements”, said Radisic.

1:45

Following the past elections, passions in Doboj are still not cooling down. The current situation shows that this town really needs democratisation of the political sphere. 27 members of SDS left the party voluntarily, but the SDS municipal board stated that they were excluded from the party due to their disrespect for party discipline.

SDS municipal board did not want to give their names, but we all know that those are the people who raised their voice against crime, profit, indecent actions and anarchy.

1:35

“Nezavizne Novine” (BL daily magazine) today published an article in which it was said that the money planned for salaries and material expenses of people employed in the police centers in BL, Prijedor and Mrkonjic Grad had been spent by the RS Government. They purchased luxury vehicles for respected officials of the MUP from the eastern part of the RS and gained their loyalty in that way.

1:46

A delegation from the British Embassy today visited the Chamber of Economics of the BL region. Experts in the fields of economics, international economic co-operation, foreign investments, and foreign commerce talked with economists about the possibility of opening a Centre for Economic Co-operation.

0:50

The strike of health workers at the hospital in Prijedor was continued today. None of the demands has so far been fulfilled, that is after 14 days of strike action.

1:36

## **Summary SRT TV News Pale/Banja Luka**

### **Monitored by OHR in Sarajevo**

There was neither Pale nor Banja Luka news. There was only a text in Cyrillic saying that :

Upon the request of the HR, SFOR carried out a technical inspection of the SRT transmitter Veliki Zep, on October 18 1997. Upon SFOR's arrival, they learnt that unknown RS citizens carried out an act of sabotage. SRT from Banja Luka will start with its programme as soon as conditions allow.