

OHR SRT News Summaries, 31 Aug 1997

Buha said in Banja Luka that the only democratic way for overcoming the crisis in the RS is to hold local, parliamentary and presidential elections in the RS. Biljana Plavsic refused to negotiate and to accept a compromise, she 'outlawed' herself from the Government, Parliament and the party (SDS), divided the police and information system and attempted to do the same with the army. Elections at all three levels are needed so that the people can finally decide. He said that Plavsic made her first mistake when she extended the OSCE mandate, although they made a lot of irregularities during the voters' registration. She insisted on crime from the beginning and then turned her fight to a political level aimed to destroy SDS and RS institutions.

Buha also visited Samac and talked to the local leadership about the political situation in the RS and the elections which will be held, according to the Parliament, if OSCE accept the request to hold the three-level elections at the same time. Buha was pleased to hear that people from the Doboj region, and throughout the RS support the legal institutions of the RS, and said that the situation is very difficult because one part of the IC went beyond their mandate on one hand, and because Plavsic 'outlawed' herself on the other.

4:00

Brcko – After the meeting in Samac, Buha went to attend Brcko to a meeting of SDS Brcko whose members support the legal institutions of the RS and the holding of three-level elections as the only solution of the current crisis. (two of Karadzic's pictures behind chairpersons) Milan Bosic, member of the SDS Brcko, confirmed that the local elections in Brcko could be fatal for this town and all the of RS. The IC has finally found someone from the inside who will work against her people, who will weaken the RS and divide it. Buha complained about the voters list saying that the Supervisor (Farrand) insisted on three mayors in Brcko before but now Brcko is being treated as united.

3:00

After spontaneous demonstrations in Brcko, Bijeljina, Janja and other towns where people gathered to protest against NATO actions in the RS, and lend support to the RS legal leadership and MUP, MUP issued a statement thanking those people who had protected the Constitution and RS institutions, the Parliament, the Government and MUP with their bodies, saying that MUP would give decisive support to people in the future if necessary.

2:00

SRT Bijeljina received a number of greetings and telegrams of support to the RS legal leadership, SRT and MUP and against the division of the RS from various RS firms, SDS boards, and different RS organisations throughout the RS. SRT read some of telegrams express support for defence against foreign invaders and domestic traitors, etc.

3:00

President of the Jewish community in Doboj, Molehajt appealed to the RS leadership to be calm and reasonable while resolving their problems, instead of thinking only about their personal interests. He said that all the people in the RS should enjoy peace now that they had finally gained it and should think about other nations that still live in the RS. If other nations like the RS as it is, why would the Serbs not do the same, he said.

On last night's special political show aired on Banja Luka TV (which has separated itself from SRT), the President of Socialist Party of the RS Radisic confirmed that a deputy and member of the main board of SP, Stankovic, took part in the action of taking over the TV transmitter at Duge Njive near Doboj, although the party denied its involvement with the incident. Stankovic and another four members of the same political party are in prison in Doboj.

Banja Luka – At a press conference held today, UN Special Envoy for Human Rights, Rehn, said that the current situation in the RS and Federation and their leadership violated human rights. She also said that she was shocked when learned that two Serb civilians were found imprisoned in the Muslim prison in Zenica, expressing her doubts that there are many such cases and prisons throughout BiH.

Flash news:

The Sunday Times reported that the US are doing their best to save the DPA. The paper call Plavsic 'a Bosniak president' and the RS 'a region under the Serb control'. The Times claims that British SFOR rules police stations in Banja Luka and that NATO air forces are in a state of alert, ready to start with, so called, electronic disturbance of

SRT programme. The chances for holding local elections are small.

German Foreign Minister Kinkel travels tomorrow to Moscow to try to persuade Russia to take part and support German and US anti-Serb action in order to weaken the RS and melt it into BiH.

German media reported that US Special Envoy Gelbard openly said that the west supports Plavsic and that she enjoys full protection by the IC.

3:00

Bijeljina – The RS leadership and SRT asked for talks with SFOR command the units of which took over a TV repeater Udrigovo, and without any explanations expelled the local police guarding the repeater. SFOR, however, did not want to talk or to allow SRT cameras to film the incident. With regard to this, SDS member Arsenovic said that 'all that has been done to the RS represents yet another invasion of the RS. We came in peace to talk to them and explain to them that the repeater belongs to the Serb people because they deserve to be well informed, and we are afraid of a spontaneous uprising of the people.' The editor in Chief of SRT in Bijeljina, Vukovic, said that 'the people expected concrete help from the IC, and peace, but not to block us. I am afraid that they will understand it in the worst way possible which could be fatal for SFOR and the IC.'

3:00

Summary SRT TV News Banja Luka

SRT TV News Summary Banja Luka will be available later today