

# **OHR RTRS News Summary, 16 February 2000**

## **News Headlines**

- RS Government adopts spring sowing plan
- RS Constitutional Court rules that 14 October decision of RS Government on public transport privileges for families of fallen soldiers and war invalids not in accordance with RS Constitution
- Dodik meets with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Avdeyev and Russian Ambassador to BiH, Sydorsky to discuss political and economic situation in RS and Dayton implementation
- ICTY confiscates RS Army weapons near Bratunac as part of Srebrenica investigation
- BiH Ombudsman Haller holds press conference in Sarajevo on human rights
- Subic family eviction in Banja Luka delayed for two months
- BiH Federation Parliament continues session
- Three bodies found in Zenica landslide, 20 more homes in danger
- RS Chamber of Commerce President Suzic meets with Yugoslav counterpart Milojevic in Belgrade to discuss economic cooperation
- RS largest Yugoslav export partner – Yugoslav Chamber of Commerce
- Serbian opposition comments on situation in Kosovo
- KFOR comments on situation in Kosovo, says schools will continue to work and that crime is down – KFOR
- Kouchner adopts new law on judges and special measures for Kosovska Mitrovica boosting peace force there
- KFOR finds dead Serb women in Klobukar village
- KFOR arrests six Albanians attempting to stone bus
- Peaceful Albanian demonstrations held in Prizren, Kosovo
- Thaci issues statement that violence could spread from Kosovska Mitrovica
- Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Avdeyev comments on Kosovo situation
- Russian Duma calls on Ivanov to discuss Kosovo issue
- World News
- Indicted war criminal Tuta transported to prison hospital
- Helsinki Human Rights Committee expresses concern over interrogation of Vucinic and Cvijanovic, journalists of the Reporter weekly
- SDS news briefing on RS Government work and draft information law
- Serb Party for RS holds press conference to discuss Banja Luka Assembly President, and say they are against OHR decision on verification of candidate lists
- Prstojevic comments on Izetbegovic statement on Brcko and chetnicks
- Brcko Mayor Kisic comments on Izetbegovic statement on Brcko and chetnicks
- Workers in Bosna factory in Banja Luka plan strike
- Sports
- Weather
- RS Government adopts plan for spring sowing
- Stability Pact Conference ends in Sarajevo
- US, Germany, France, Great Britain, and Italy demand Kosovo Albanians to suspend violence
- NATO Council supports French KFOR
- Kosovska Mitrovica Serb National Executive Board Head Ivanovic comments on Kouchner plan for resolution of Kosovska Mitrovica problem
- Southern Kosovska Mitrovica Albanian Mayor Redzeqi comments on measures of Kosovo Interim Administrative Council
- Council of Europe Regional and Local Authorities' Conference President Schenar supports UNMIK
- French explain delay of French police officers for Kosovo duty

- Bildt comments UNMIK
- James Rubin comments on flight and finance sanctions against Yugoslavia
- World news
- Croatian Bishopric Conference and Serbian Orthodox Church to meet in Novi Sad on 17 February
- Sports and Weather

## **News Summary**

### **SDS news briefing on RS Government work and draft information law**

The SDS held a press conference in Banja Luka. "The RS Government acts like an instrument of the SNSD" said SDS Chairman Dragan Kalinic, adding that that was a usurpation of the RS Constitution. He asked the Provisional Election Commission (PEC) to consider this case. "The RS Government is losing the trust it had with international community, while the support of the people was lost a long time ago" he said. The Sloga Coalition is the main culprit for the present situation in the RS, the SDS told the press conference. Kalinic commented on the SNS proposal that the competencies of the RS president should be transferred over to the RS Prime Minister and RS National Assembly Speaker. Kalinic said that this function cannot be divided between legislative and executive authorities and that this proposal was anti-constitutional. The SDS supports the privatization process, but still thinks that it must be under the full control of the RS National Assembly. "Privatization is in bad condition and is under the full control of the RS Government" he said. Meanwhile, the SDS strongly opposes the draft public information law proposed by the RS Government. "It is a neo-communist law that throttles the freedom of media and protects the privileged position of ruling circles. The International Community and responsible circles in the International Community are also skeptical about this draft law." In general, we are against the Information Ministry being an institution of the government, said Kalinic. Kalinic said he believes that the incumbent authority has a list of journalists it protects and another list of ones it is against. Therefore, free journalism cannot function in the RS, the SDS said at the press conference.

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