

OHR BiH TV News Summary, 12 January 1999

BiH Presidency held a session today, discussing the work of the CoM, and made decision that the CoM should be constituted in accordance with the present law as soon as possible. The Presidency expressed the readiness to initiate resolving of BiH key issues, refugee return, privatisation, election law and other issues.

1:30

BiH Presidency Chairman Radisic received letters of appointment of Czech Ambassador to BiH, and Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran.

1:00

Due to insisting of the Serb side that the CoM session should be held in Lukavica, only consultative meeting was held in the CoM Co-chairman Silajdzic. Silajdzic said that the Serb side refuses to hold meetings in Sarajevo for as long as certain matters of the Parliament building status are resolved.

1:30

Negotiations on illegal appointment of HVO generals continued behind the closed doors. OHR spokesperson Stiglmeyer said that OHR still does not want to comment on possible sanctions of replacements, although Croatian press published OHR spokesman Haselock's statement who said that Jelavic will be replaced from the post of Presidency member if he does not withdraw decision on appointment of HVO generals. However, Stiglmeyer said that OHR will react only if SFOR demands it. Stiglmeyer said at the press conference that HR Westendorp severely condemns the insulting tone and inappropriate contents of Croat invalids of war letter, which says that the joint plan for expelling Croats from Bosnia was made by Westendorp and Moslems.

2:00

Federal Premier Bicakcic demanded from HR Westendorp to assure implementation of his decision on military booklets. Bicakcic demanded this due to information on attempts to change decision by which the HR defined the ratio of booklets between BiH Army and HVO.

1:00

Federation Parliament House of Peoples commenced two-day session in Sarajevo. The HoP discussed the agenda for the session, because the draft Law on War Invalids was removed from agenda since the last session. HoP also discussed the Law on Employment.

2:00

Federation Premier Bicakcic met with US Special Envoy Gelbard. Main subjects of the discussion were issues of the upcoming privatisation process.

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Appointment of the new RS government is still expected. International Community representatives Westendorp and Barry met with RS President, RS Premier and Assembly Chairman. Ambassador Westendorp said that desire of the International Community is that the RS Government is formed as soon as possible and that the government co-operates with the IC.

1:30

Francis Boyle, Professor of International Law on the Illinois University and creator of indictment – BiH against FRY for crimes of aggression and genocide held a lecture at the Sarajevo Law Faculty and said that it is clear that only BiH wishes the trial, unlike Serbia, America, Europe and UN, for they were all standing and watching genocide in BiH, without doing anything. According to Boyle, only FRY will be on trial, but also these other countries, although indirectly. Because of this, in Boyle's opinion, certain circles in the International Community are putting pressure on BiH to drop the charges.

2:00

Presidency member Izetbegovic's advisor Jerkovic issued a press release and refuted all information about withdrawing charges against FRY, and said that nobody never showed any indication that we will drop the charges, and that we will persistently continue to insist on this.

1:00

About 40 Croat returnees to the Obrenovac village in Konjic municipality received keys of ten reconstructed houses.

1:30

Federal Minister of Defence Prce made a statement for RTV BiH and said that negotiations of SFOR and Croat representatives are reaching a compromise solution, which would be a joint statement, in which some of mistakes will be stated, but also the future joint principle which will be applied incases of appointing the officers. Minister Prce also said that he expects promotion of HVO generals to be approved.

2:00