

OHR BiH TV News Summary, 16 April 1998

Standing Military Committee held a session in Lukavica, chaired by BiH President Izetbegovic and discussed the matter of BiH military presentation abroad, as well as military registration plates.

2:00

BiH President Izetbegovic met with HR Westendorp and UN high Commissioner for Refugees, Ogata. Subjects of BiH media restructuring and refugee return were also discussed. Ogata proposed establishing of Property Commissions at the regional level in order to assist refugees.

3:00

BiH CoM held a session and discussed the matter of the Law on Customs Tariffs implementation, as well as the Law on Customs Policy and the implementation of the Law on CoM. CoM Co-chairman Silajdzic also included the set of the property and privatization laws, but several representatives opposed to this item.

3:00

BiH Prime Minister Bicakcic will visit Croatia tomorrow. The contract on delivering electricity between the two electric companies will be signed.

1:00

BiH Federation Parliament HoR continued its session discussing the matter of Commission for Investigation of Improper Usage of Funds. Representatives Begovic assessed yesterday's Alikadic's stand-out as wrong. HoR Chairman Kreso reacted to SDA representative Alikadic's comments and said he was not afraid of his threats and that he knows the rules book better than Alikadic will ever learn. Representative Karabeg said that trip to London was carried out in order to make intentional damage to BiH. Alikadic also verbally attacked BiH TV reporter because of last night's reporting from the session. It was concluded that the Commission should submit the new report, and the quotes of London "Times" were refuted. Federation Budget was also adopted and it was planned to be 917 million DEM

6:00

Federation Forum held a session in Mostar where Mostar Mayor Orucevic and deputy Prskalo signed the agreement on return of refugees to Mostar. US Ambassador Kauzlarich also expressed his satisfaction with signed agreement. Schumacher said that a clear signal was addressed from Mostar today, to those who are responsible for murders in Drvar. Schumacher stressed that adoption of this law closed a big black hole on the Federation area. Members of the Forum also agreed to cancel all structures of Herceg Bosna and Republic of BiH.

3:00

US officials called Croatia to use its influence on Bosniak Croat to stop blocking functioning of the BiH Federation. US Government is concerned about parallel existence of Herceg Bosna and BiH.

2:00

SFOR spokesman announced that two elderly Serb returnees were beaten to death last night, and their house was burnt. Before the fire was spread, SFOR soldiers were able to enter the house where they found two bodies, one male one female. The initial assessment is that they both have been shot in the back. The man also appeared to have sustained stab wounds. Both victims were identified as Serbs who have recently returned to Drvar. UN Special Envoy, Rehn demanded urgent replacements of Drvar police chief and IA Minister with Serb returnees.

2:00

In the village Gomionica, near Kiseljak, Bosniak graveyard was demolished. HVO soldiers are passing through the village daily and shouting at Bosniak returnees: "You keep on building, we will demolish again".

4:00

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ogata is in visit to BiH. Ogata said that the purpose of the visit is to point out to the need of regional resolving of the refugee problem.

3:00

AP reported that indicted war criminal Zoran Zigic was extradited to SFOR in Banja Luka. Zigic was extradited from the military jail where he was imprisoned for charges of war crimes.

2:00

ICTY forensics team will start exhumations in Brnice near Zvornik on Monday. Five countries donated \$3 million for exhumation, and RS authorities were informed about the exhumations.

1:30