OHR BiH TV News Summary, 7 April 1998

On the second day of his visit to BiH, the French President Chirac met with the BiH Presidency members. France FA Minister Vedreine and BiH Foreign Trade Minister, Kurtovic signed financial protocol on printing and transport of the new BiH currency. Chirac also held a speech at the National Theater in Sarajevo, with the presence of the leading BiH officials, as well as the International Community representatives. Chirac also visited French-German <u>SFOR</u> brigade in Rajlovac. Afterwards, the French President went to Mostar and met with French <u>SFOR</u> in Mostar as well as with the Mostar city officials and regional OHR head Sir Martin Garrod. French President also congratulated Bajram to all Moslem believers.

12:00

Moslems worldwide celebrated the first day of Bajram. (BiH TV also brought the coverage of the celebration in several cities of BiH). While Presidency member, Krajisnik congratulated Bajram to Moslem people, wishing them to spend each further Bajram in happiness and peace, and that everyone goes towards peace, reconciliation and forgiveness.

10:00

Visit of Bosniak refugees from Zenica to Banja Luka went without any problems. Bosniak refugees visited cemeteries and celebrated Bajram in Banja Luka. 2:00

OHR for Brcko published that Brcko region will receive more than 12 million DEM of financial aid from the European Commission, which is a part of 126 million DEM, allocated by 17 agreements for assistance to refugees and displaced persons in BiH. 2:00

Sarajevo Canton Minister for Urbanism, Buljina announced that 2067 families applied for return to this canton, and that 500 families returned to their apartments in the last 5 months. 2:00

International Crisis Group recommended postponing of the next elections if the current election system is not changed. ICG considers that the priority is establishing the new election system that will lead towards reconstruction of BiH and ensure that all citizens may vote for all candidates and not only for members of their own national group.

1:00

The London Times published an article about Karadzic's disappearance from Pale. The article further says that last weekend, the special police unit in charge for guarding Karadzic mysteriously disappeared from Pale. The Times ads that <u>SFOR</u> failed to explain the last week's action of German, French and Italian soldiers who blocked Karadzic's house. Some diplomats stated that Karadzic is on the edge to voluntarily surrender, while local population says that he has been in Russia for some time already. 1:30