

OHR Local News Issues, 17 March 1997

Sarajevo: BiH Presidency meeting, scheduled to be held in Lukavica today at 14,00h had to be canceled since Momcilo Krajisnik, Presidency Member, informing 2 hours before the meeting started that due to an urgent trip he was prevented from taking part in its work, informs BH Press. He suggested his Deputy replace him at the meeting. Alija Izetbegovic, Presidency President, who is paying a visit to Saudi Arabia, had already authorized his replacement. Presidential meetings cannot be held in the absence of two Co-Premiers.

1'30"

Herceg-Bosnian Canton issued a Press Release relating to the 15 March explosion of the Mosque in Stipanici saying that the Ministry of Interior Affairs officials, a Community Court Judge and the Police of Tomislavgrad are investigating the case in order to arrest and punish the culprits.

1'30"

Kresimir Zubak, Presidency Member also issued a Statement relating to the Mosque in Stipanici, slamming this criminal act which offends every honest person, all religious communities, all peoples and is contrary to the Croatian politics in BiH.

1'00"

BiH parted from Alija Isakovic, a great man, the Bosniak and the Bosnian, writer and erudite, a man who contributed invaluablely to the BiH culture and tradition.

2'30"

Announcing the OHR stance relating to the recently signed Special Relations Pact between RS and FRY, Colum Murphy, HR Spokesman said that the RS Assembly can confirm this Agreement as much as it wishes, but it can really be ratified only by the BiH Parliament. He repeated that Bildt's Office supports in full the Haris Silajdzic statement that the Agreement is contrary to the BiH Constitution and has to be harmonized with it. CM added that the OHR is not trying to press the State authorities into giving a green light to the Agreement.

1'30"

The fourth session of the Federal Parliament House of Reps will be held tomorrow focusing on: Rules of Procedure, election of the President and his Deputy, as well as the President and Members of the Commission for selection, the Federation President and his Deputy's Working Report, Working Program of the Candidates for those functions, etc. The general security of the citizens on the Federal territory might be also discussed.

1'30"

Mirko Boskovic was chosen as President and Muamer Herceglijica Deputy of the Federal Constitutional Court at today's regular meeting, which was also attended by the Constitutional Court's international judges.

0'30"

After an open demand for military intervention in Albania by the HR, his Spokesman, Colum Murphy underlined today the danger of re-igniting the fire in the Balkans and need for the a stronger and more co-ordinated attitude against violence and non tolerance which exists in South East Europe. Looking through the BiH prism, CM called for wiser and far reaching measures before it is too late.

1'30"

Fatima Leho, Hercegovina-Neretva Governor informed Ambassador Steiner that all decisions made at the Federation Forum sessions are dead letters on paper and the laws passed by the Cantonal Parliament are being not respected. She appealed for a FF meeting to discuss the problems which block the work of all Cantonal official bodies.

2'00"

Sarajevo: Premier Edhem Bicakcic, his Deputy Dragan Bilandzija and Federation Government Ministers, Nedeljko Despotovic, Izudin Kapetanovic and Ahmed Smajic talked with Peter Steck, the World Bank Executive Director in Washington focusing on the realization of BiH reconstruction and development programs and the preparations for the Donors Conference.

Summary SRT News

Belgrade – The Serbian People's Assembly unanimously ratified the Agreement between the RS and FRY, signed on February 28. The Assembly supports and strengthens the trust between the two Serb communities, and protects and preserves their joint interests. The agreement is not against the DPA, nor it is against the interests of other peoples. A delegation of the RS People's Assembly headed by its speaker, Kalinic, also attended the session. After the session, Kalinic expressed his satisfaction saying that the agreement was adopted democratically. This is a great day for the Serbhood and a step forward to its final ratification by the FRY Assembly.

3:00

Pale – RS Member of the BiH Presidency, Krajisnik, met Swedish Ambassador to BiH to discuss the implementation of the joint institutions. He expressed his concerns with regard to President Izetbegovic's behaviour and future implementation of institutions. Ćel must say that we are very worried because of Izetbegovic, who went to Saudi Arabia instead of coming to the Presidency session which he convened at our latest session. He went there without saying a word to us, which proves his ignorance towards the work of the Presidency. Besides, now, a year after the DPA and ending of the old BiH, he [Izetbegovic] took a medal out of his drawer, some medal which doesn't exist anymore. Krajisnik said that he and the Swedish Ambassador also talked about the Swedish Government not issuing visas to an RS karate team, but conditioning it with them having BiH passports. Krajisnik said that RS citizens can have the FRY passport until a new BiH passport is issued.

4:00

Pale – The RS Government and the CoM Co-Chair, Bosic met a WB delegation to discuss providing financial resources for the RS and the Federation.

2:00

Pale – the CoM Minister of Traffic and Communication, Albjanic met the head of IMF in BiH, Brown, to discuss the work of joint institutions and establishment of the Central Bank and joint currency. Brown said that the donors are losing their patience because key issues (central bank and joint currency) haven't yet been established. Albjanic said that Muslim authorities are undermining the process by their mixing economic issues with politics.

2:00

Hodzic village near Doboj – About 70 Muslims who returned to their places of origin will get RS documents (IDs) which they will have to respect as loyal citizens of the RS. The RS police, IPTF and SFOR will register the Muslims and check out if they lived in this village before the war in BH.

3:00