

OHR Local News Issues, 27 February 1997

Due to anonymous threats, the Office for reception of Pope John Paul II in the Catholic Theological Seminary in Sarajevo has been closed, informed the Catholic Press Agency. According to this source an anonymous male voice talking by phone said that a church in Donji Vakuf had been blown up and that Pope would be killed if he dares to come to Sarajevo.

1:00

A Statement from the BiH Federation Ombudsmen Office confirmed that a strong explosive devise exploded in the Church St. Little Teresa in Donji Vakuf on 25 February at 21,51 hours and destroyed complete inner part of the church.

1:00

On the occasion of the attacks on the Catholic Church in Donji Vakuf, Alija Izetbegovic, Presidency President received Mehmed Zilic and Jozo Leutar, Federal Minister for Interior Affairs and his Deputy and demanded a strengthened protection for all Catholic objects in country. Attacks of such kind have the only goal to stop the Pope's to visit our country. They represent a component of the activities against unified BiH, Izetbegovic said.

1:00

Kresimir Zubak, Presidency Member received Francesco Monterisi, Apostolic Nuncio, in BiH. Their talks focused on the visit of the Pope to our country.

0:30

Kresimir Zubak, BiH Federation President and Presidency Member, sent a letter to Antonio Casese, the President of ICTY, in which he disputes the legacy of Vasvija Vidovic, BiH Representative to the Hague Tribunal, who allegedly was not appointed by the BiH institutions. Requested by the Tribunal on this issue, Alija Izetbegovic sent an explanation and commentary confirming that the BiH Foreign Ministry had authorized Judge Vidovic to represent the country at the ICTY.

2:00

At its fourth session the CoM continued to harmonize Laws of the so called Quick Start Package. The Draft Law on foreign debt has been agreed and will be immediately sent to the BiH Assembly for adoption, Haris Silajdzic informed. The Entities will take over parts of the debt through the budget, said Boro Bosic. The session continues on 5 March.

1:30

Alija Izetbegovic received Michael Parmley, US Embassy Advisor in Sarajevo, who informed him of the State Department stance regarding the IPTF Investigation Results of the incident in Mostar on 10February. It should be understood that the decisions stipulated in the report must be carried out in full.

1:30

Representatives of IPTF could not confirm at today's Press briefing, the news of the arrest of Mostar Mafia members which Ambassador Steiner spoke of last night. The deadline has expired and the question remains as to how the Report, supported by all International organizations, will be carried out. Although IPTF reports on the situation in Mostar were disturbing, the Cantonal Minister for Interior Affairs shortened the town curfew.

1:30

If the arrests have really taken place in Mostar yesterday, UN hail it and hope that this is a start of breaking down the organized crime in Mostar, Alex Ivanko told a Press Conference. The OHR hails the arrests of the persons believed to be in connection with Mafia in Mostar, said Colum Murphy pointing out that the International Community is expecting further steps in this direction. None of them could answer why the arrest of three Croatian policemen named in the Report had not taken place. It was said that the story had not ended, but new dates had not been set.

1:00

After a warning from the West, that attacks on NATO in Mostar threaten its broader interests, Croatia has intensified measures against Croatian warlords in Mostar, Davor Djener, a Croatian analyst told Reuters. The

criminals have build up their power on the evictions of Bosniaks, influencing the local politicians and creating lawlessness.

1:30

Summary SRT News

Pale – press release – RS leadership press office denied that Radovan Karadzic gave an interview to WTN, claiming that this British TV agency took Karadzic's pictures from Krajina TV before 1995.

Serb Sarajevo – CoM session – Ministers adopted the Foreign Debt Law. The debt, which was inherited from the former Yugoslavia, will be shared between Entities. The next CoM session was sheduled for next Wednesday.

2:00

Serb Novo Sarajevo municipalities – RS Prime Minister Klickovic visited Serb Ilidza, Serb Sarajevo and Trnovo. He talked with local authorities about two projects for building the Serb Sarajevo housing facilities and infrastructure.

2:00

A village near Prijedor – RS Army HQ Commander General Colic laid foundations for the first RS army barracks nearby Omarska, and said that this will be a pillar of the RS defence and facility for training and raising young generations of RS soldiers. The barracks will be constructed by the end of this year.

3:00

OHR spokesman Murphy expressed his scepticism regarding donations promised by Austrian Government which should be given to refugee who voluntarily return to BiH.

Doboj villages – Muslims are using all possible means to get into the RS territory illegally. The police chief from Doboj sent a letter to all international organisations with regard to incidents which occurred two days ago in Hodzici, a border village near Doboj. He said that the Serb police saw several Muslim policemen among the Muslims who were preventing SFOR, IPTF, and the RS police from marking the international ZOS line. Swedish SFOR command approves the Muslim attacks. Their commander even admitted that he knew about Muslim applications to return to the village several months ago, whereas today, about 140 applications were approved.

3:00

Banja Luka – The RS National Bank is preparing a project for returning money to its savings account users. They will probably adopt FRY National Bank methods, which returns money through shares.

2:00

World News: German TV magazine Monitor reports that Germany had sent weapons to the Muslim army during the war in BiH. British Strategic Policy of the Foreign Affairs reports that German and French IFOR made an agreement with Muslim President Izetbegovic for dumping their nuclear waste, conditioning it by an unobstructed delivery of arms to the Muslim Army. The waste was dumped in caves in the Federation territory, primarily nearby former Serb villages.

3:00