

Denial of statements attributed to the High Representative

High Representative Valentin Inzko formally denies statements attributed to him in an article in today's edition of *Oslobođenje* entitled "Ambasadori nam predlažu subdbinu Čehoslovačke"(page 3).

Amongst others, the High Representative is reported to have said that some representatives of the Peace Implementation Council believe that the "best solution for BiH would be a partition like in Czechoslovakia". This quote is not true and the High Representative never made any such statement.

Neither the High Representative nor any of the Ambassadors participating in meetings of the Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council ever advocated a partition of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the contrary, the High Representative and the PIC Steering Board have consistently reiterated their unequivocal commitment to BiH's territorial integrity and sovereignty and strongly deplored efforts and divisive statements aimed at questioning the territorial integrity of the country.

During several meetings, the High Representative told the parents that there is no alternative to a sincere dialogue amongst all stakeholders in order to reach a fair solution that will bring the children back to their classrooms as a matter of priority.

Welcoming the pro-active engagement of the OSCE and other members of the international community, the High Representative also urged the parents to participate in a dialogue with the RS Ministry of Education, however difficult it may be, in the best interest of the children.