

# OBN News Review, 18 April 1999

## Headlines

- During last night of NATO strikes against Yugoslavia, 30 targets hit
- More than 20,000 refugees from Kosovo fled to neighboring countries during last 24 hours
- Clinton thinks Milosevic's stepping down from political scene main precondition for stabilization of the Balkans
- Topics of TV INFO: How much Livno belongs to BiH Federation; Why the first factory with certificate ISO 9001 faces problems; Spring seeding in Semberija ; Care for handicap children
- TV INFO's guest is Austrian Deputy Interior Minister, Manfred Matzka

## Yugoslavia

NATO planes hit more than 30 targets in the Federal Republic Yugoslavia last night. NATO officials announced that the weather conditions were the reason for canceling some of the morning missions. Some of the targets were roads, oil refineries, airports and radar systems. Today, NATO asked from Bulgaria the air corridor for its strikes. The decision will be made by the Bulgarian Parliament.

## Kosovo – refugees

Kosovo Albanians are entering Albania, a thousand of them during an hour. The exodus is continuing with the same intensity towards Macedonia as well. The UN Officials announced that only a quarter of the Kosovo Albanians' population, since the beginning of arm conflicts, has stayed in Kosovo.

## Reactions

The USA President, Bill Clinton, said in an interview to The Sunday Times that deep transformation in Serbia was necessary for solving the Kosovo crisis. An idea on sending ground troops to Kosovo is more present recently. According to some statements of the NATO officials, they did not reach common ground on this yet. The NATO Secretary General, Javier Solana, said that present strategy of the Alliance in Kosovo is an air campaign but he did not reject a possibility of sending ground troops. The Special USA Envoy for Kosovo, James Perdue, said that President Clinton stated clearly that we would not employ ground troops in the moment. The Russian chief of diplomacy, Igor Ivanov, said that they had precise information that the operation of sending ground troops in Kosovo is being prepared.

## Sarajevo

The Albanians' Association Sarajevo "Bajram Curi" in Sarajevo, warned that living conditions of a large group of Kosovo Albanians, who came to Sarajevo on April 15 and 16, were very hard. The Association has asked for help from the local authorities for the refugees that currently sleep in the hall of the Sarajevo Railway Station.

## Bijeljina

Direct consequence of the events in the Federal Republic Yugoslavia is increase of the prices in Republika Srpska. Our crew from Bijeljina made a research on whether all increases were justified.

## Vienna

Republic Austria is one of the countries, which help stabilization in BiH in different ways. Our crew visited Vienna and talked about current situation in the region with the Austrian Deputy Interior Minister, Manfred Matzka.

## HDZ

HABENA agency reported that BiH HDZ supports decision of the High Representative on canceling all permanent occupancy rights issued during and after the war in Bosnia.

## Livno

Officials of the Livno Canton signed two days ago an agreement, reached with the international mediator for BiH, Christian Schwarz -Schilling, on holding of an urgent session of the Canton Assembly and adopting of a plan on reorganization of joint police forces. Obviously, the International Community is not satisfied with a situation in the Canton.

## Sarajevo

The Federal Government determined changes and annexes of the law on special tax for alcohol and cigarettes. This will increase the tax and prices of the products in the BiH Federation.

## Tesanj

A piece on the "Pobjeda" factory of pumps in Tesanj. Although the factory was among those who first got ISO 9 001 certificate, employees did not receive their salaries since December.

## Bijeljina

A report on spring seeding in Semberija, traditional agriculture area of BiH.

## Doboj Jug

Another meeting on return to Doboj was held in Matuzici in the Doboj Jug Municipality. The participants were returnees, businessmen and representatives of the SFOR's office for the

civil and military cooperation.

## Kljuc – Cazin

After the last year change of territories between the RS and BiH Federation, Velecevo, Dubocani and Rudnici belong to the Kljuc Municipality in the BiH Federation. Process of reconstruction is satisfying although return is not as fast as it should be.

## Zenica

A piece on problems of handicap children in Zenica and on how much community pays attention to this.

## Tesanj

A report on the BiH mathematics competition in Tesanj, where 127 students participated. The grammar school "Mesa Selimovic" from Tuzla was the best.

## Sport

A report on local football matches, followed by tennis.