OBN News Review, 22 December 1999

Headlines

- Priority of the Hague Tribunal Main Prosecutor for 2000 will be arresting of those indicted for war crimes
- The USA Defence Minister, William Cohen, visited US troops in the military base “Eagle” in Tuzla
- Winner of the elections in Shri Lanka is the former President
- The RS Syndicate accepted an offer of the RS Government of 80 KM as a minimal salary
- IPTF dissatisfied with the behaviour of police in Banja Luka regarding implementation of eviction orders
- Representatives of local police use 107 houses of refugee Serbs in Sanski Most

Tuzla

The USA Defence Minister, William Cohen, visited US troops in the military base “Eagle” in Tuzla for the Christmas. The Minister addressed to the soldiers. An entertainment show for the soldiers was presented.

The Hague

At the first press conference, held by the Main Prosecutor of the Hague Tribunal, a hundred days after her appointment to the position, Carla del Ponte announced that her high priority for 2000 would be the arrest of those who were most responsible for the war crimes, Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic. The Main Prosecutor said that the RS authorities showed encouraging signs regarding the cooperation with the Hague Tribunal. Carla del Ponte said that her Prosecution Office currently deals with 19 investigations, for war crimes committed in BiH, Croatia and Kosovo, and that they would

start another 17 next year. The report from Hague for TV INFO was produced by the "Sense" agency reporter, Mirko Klarin.

Mostar / Sarajevo

The Canton Board of the HDZ party in Mostar announced last night that they would cancel their cooperation with the Head of the OHR office in Mostar. The Office of the High Representative in Sarajevo warned that would mean canceling of the cooperation with the High Representative. The Spokesman of the OHR, James Fergusson, said this would not change the attitude of the OHR towards the town of Mostar. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Vedran Persic.

Agriculture in BiH

During this year, the US Ministry of Agriculture donated 15 million dollars for development of agriculture in BiH. The support in goods was delivered to both entities. The profit gain through selling of the goods has been directed towards the development of new projects for the strengthening of agriculture production. This kind of help will be continued in 2000. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Damir Kaletovic.

Process of Privatisation

The US Government has made a decision on the suspension of an important amount of financial support to BiH within the process of privatisation. However, without process of privatisation, there will be no new jobs. The World Bank warned that potential investors would give up not only investing in BiH, but would also quit already started jobs in the reconstruction of the country. The report on how the decision of the USAID would influence BiH companies was produced by Sanjin Beciragic.

Banja Luka

There will be no general strike in the RS. At least, not in the organisation of the RS Syndicate. Although the RS Syndicate was unsatisfied with the decision of the Government to offer 80 KM as a minimal salary, the President of the Syndicate, Cedo Volas, signed a decision on the minimal salary in the RS of 80 KM which will be in force from February 1st 2000. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Nedeljka Breberina.

World

A report on the presidential elections in Shri Lanka was followed by a report on current events in Russia. The Russian Prime Minister said that the military campaign in Russia has been approaching to a successful end. This was followed by reports on Italy and Venezuela. The report on current events the world was produced by OBN journalist, Zeljka Lekic.

Banja Luka

OBN crew from Banja Luka asked oppinions of the RS Prime Minister, Milorad Dodik, the RS Minister of Internal Affairs, Sredoje Novic and the RS Public Prosecutor, regarding an alleged affair of the RS company "Telekom". Three managers of the Telekom, members of SNS and Social parties, are the owners of the telecommunications company "Audioteks". Minister Novic said that although the press reported about crime, it was not a proof for that. The Prime Minister said that some of the RS media wanted to keep the RS in the center of media attention in a negative way, OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Tatjana Lajsic, confirmed.

According to the report of the IPTF, representatives of local police use 107 houses in Sanski Most, which are the private property of refugee Serbs. This was announced by the Spokesperson of the UN Mission in the Banja Luka and Bihac regions, Alun Roberts. He also said that IPTF dissatisfied with the behaviour of police in Banja Luka regarding

implementation of eviction orders OBN reporter, Suzana Vukcevic, confirmed.

Sarajevo

Last week, TV INFO brought a story about eviction of a single mother with two children from Sarajevo. However, the family did not have a valid documentation for the usage of an apartment. If she had the documentation, the police could not have evict her from the apartment without previously providing an alternative accommodation. The Canton Ministry of Refugees promised to provide some accommodation. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic. This was followed by a statement of the BiH Federation Ombudsperson, Branka Raguz, about providing of alternative accommodation for those people who were evicted from apartments.

Sarajevo / Nevesinje

This was followed by a report on the current situation in BiH regarding the electricity supply and cuts caused by a strong snow storm. Towns of Bugojno, Kupres, Donji Vakuf, Gornji Vakuf, Rahic and Celic do not have electricity as well as villages between Gacko and Nevesinje. In Visoko, electricity is available only for the priorities. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Sarajevo, Slobodan Maksimovic, and Sinisa Jokic from Nevesinje.

Mostar

A report on three bridges which were destroyed during the recent floods in Mostar. The report was produced by Zlatko Serdarevic TV INFO from Mostar.

Sport

A report on local football was followed by reports on international skiing, NBA and the international football matches.