OBN News Review, 23 December 1999

Headlines

- BiH Presidency did not discuss the number of voting stations for the Croatian parliamentary elections – OSCE continues to discuss the issue with BiH authorities
- The deadline for submitting candidates lists for the 2000 municipality elections in BiH expired – candidates are being checked
- In Mostar, the BiH Federation Government adopted two annexes of the agreement on special relations with the Republic of Croatia
- German Defence Minister, Rudolf Scharping, visited SFOR German troops for Christmas
- Cardinal Vinko Puljic send his Christmas message to Catholics
- This day in the world was marked with a number of natural disasters

Sarajevo

Representatives of the BiH Council of Ministers could not agree upon the restructure of this institution ordered by the BiH Constitutional Court. Because of that, the BiH Presidency suggested a solution. Two members of the Presidency supported the decision while one member was against. The final decision will be made by the BiH Parliament. BiH Presidency did not discuss the number of voting stations for the Croatian parliamentary elections today. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Bakir Hadziomerovic.

This was followed by a report on the press conference of international organisations held in Sarajevo today. The deadline for submitting candidates lists for the 2000 municipality elections in BiH expired yesterday at 5.00 p.m.

The Provisional Election Commission and the OSCE Election Department started checking the candidates in respect to the PEC Rules and Regulations. Candidates lists will be officially confirmed on January 17th next year. Also, OSCE claims that the agreement on opening of fifteen voting stations in BiH for the forthcoming Croatian parliamentary elections was agreed by the BiH Foreign Ministry. However, they would continue their talks about this issue with the BiH authorities. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Zeljka Lekic.

Mostar

The Prime Minister of the BiH Federation, Edhem Bicakcic, opened a new building of the BiH Federation institutions located in Mostar. The Mostar Mayor, Ivan Prskalo, did not attend the ceremony. He claims that the building was illegally built in the central zone of Mostar instead on the previously agreed location between the Ero Hotel and the Neretva river. The BiH Federation held its session in the new building today. The Government adopted two annexes of the agreement on special relations with the Republic of Croatia. It was said that these two annexes should improve and regulate cooperation in the field of internal affairs between the two countries. The report on this was produced by OBN reporter from Mostar, Mirsad Behram.

Zagreb

Most of the political parties in the Republic of Croatia have already announced names of their candidates for the presidential elections scheduled for January 24th. Drazen Budisa expects his candidature to be supported by the Social-Democrat Party. An unofficial source reported that HDZ party will announce the name of their candidate on January 5th. Mate Granic decided to candidate on his own if HDZ do not candidate him. The report for TV INFO from Zagreb was produced by Gordana Simonovic.

World

The Russian Military Information Agency announced that more than 100 Russian soldiers was killed in fights for Grozny in the last five days. For the last 24 hours, some 3,500 people left Grozny. Currently, between 20,000 and 40,000 inhabitants still live in this destroyed city. The US Deputy State Secretary, Strobe Talbott, said in Moscow that Russia has breached international laws in Chechenia. This was followed by a report on a Philippine boat accident and a helicopter accident which was transporting food to endangered areas in Venezuela. This was followed by reports on accidents in South Africa, Algeria and Great Britain. The report on current events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Mladen Maric.

Sarajevo

Director of the US Agency for International Development, Craig Buck, did not give any comments regarding the US suspension of the support for the process of privatisation in the BiH Federation. The Head of the USAID attended today's presentation of an initiative to establish trade arbitration which would encourage foreign investors in BiH. The idea was initiated by Haris Silajdzic. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sanjin Beciragic.

Banja Luka

The RS Chamber of Commerce think that this entity is in a very difficult situation. Canceling of payment operations with Yugoslavia and an agreement on trade with Croatia which was not activated, brought many of the RS companies to the bottom of existence. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Sanela Zivkovic.

Sarajevo

A report on a very difficult situation in the "Sanofarm"

factory from Sarajevo. Two years ago, workers of the factory were on strike demanding their salaries to be paid. Two years after, they received only two salaries, which means one salary per year. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

A piece on the visit of the German Minister of Defence, Rudolf Scharping, to SFOR German troops for Christmas. Germany will decrease number of its troops in BiH for one third. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Vedran Persic.

This was followed by a traditional Christmas message to Catholics send by the Vrhbosanski Cardinal, Vinko Puljic. The Cardinal's message was presented. This was followed by a report on the press conference held by the Cardinal. The Cardinal said that there would be no stable peace without the implementation of the right on return.

A piece on current situation regarding the electricity supply in BiH and the road traffic was produced by OBN reporter, Slobodan Maksimovic.

Sport

A report on local handball was followed by a report on the European football matches.