

# OBN News Review, 24 February 2000

## Headlines

- The BiH Presidency decided that BiH citizens will be able to use passports without entities' marks
- With respect to Ante Jelavic's initiative to cancel the BiH Federation entity, OHR said they were for the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement and not for changes
- France will send an additional 600-700 soldiers to Kosovo
- The Pope, John Paul the Second, visits Middle East
- The BiH Federation ombudspersons stick to their decision to return their jobs to four judges from Cazin who were forced to resign
- Management of the "Sarajevski Kiseljak" company ask the results of the tender for privatisation to be cancelled

## Sarajevo

The BiH Presidency decided to provide a possibility to BiH citizens to travel abroad with passports with or without BiH entities' marks. The Presidency accepted the report on the implementation of the New York Declaration and emphasised that a more clear position on the BiH Council of Ministers should be included in the Declaration. A final report of the Commission for Refugees on the State level should be included as well. Today, the BiH Presidency sent an official invitation to the Croatian President, Stipe Mesic, to visit Bosnia and Herzegovina on March 24th. The piece was produced by OBN reporter, Sanjin Beciragic.

The Sarajevo press reported on an initiative of the BiH Presidency Member and HDZ party in BiH President, Ante Jelavic, for cancellation of the BiH Federation. Mr. Jelavic

refused to give further explanations because "he was too much present in the media". OBN reporter asked the BiH Federation Prime Minister, Edhem Bicakcic, to comment on Mr. Jelavic's idea to cancel this BiH entity. Mr. Bicakcic said that not only the HDZ party was in favour of cancellation as in the BiH Federation Prime Minister's position.

In respect to Ante Jelavic's statement about canceling the BiH Federation, OHR's Spokesman, James Fergusson, said that such a decision would be connected to the amendments of the BiH Federation and BiH constitutions. However, at the same time, this would mean the changes to the Dayton Peace Agreement which is not acceptable for OHR.

## **Croatia**

The High Representative in BiH, Wolfgang Petritsch, is on an official visit to Zagreb. The High Representative reiterated that the Dayton Peace Agreement should be implemented first and then built up. In his talks with top Croatian officials, Mr. Petritsch said it was too soon to talk about the cantonisation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The report from Zagreb for TV INFO was produced by Gordana Simonovic.

## **Turkey**

A delegation of the BiH Federation Government visited Turkey. The Turkish Government decided to allow import of some goods from Bosnia and Herzegovina without taxes. Some concrete results will be visible in the Volkswagen factory in Sarajevo because 1,200 cars will be sold on the Turkish market free of tax. OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic, produced the report.

## **World**

The US State Secretary, Madeline Albright, will visit Bosnia and Herzegovina on March 8th and 9th. Ms. Albright wants to welcome an important progress in the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement and support a fast refugee return,

economic reforms and functioning of BiH joint institutions. France decided to send an additional 600-700 soldiers to Kosovo. Russia is finalizing its military operations in Chechnya. The Pope, John Paul the Second, is on a visit to Middle East.

## **Banja Luka**

The Managing Board of the Banja Luka Clinic Center will enforce measures which will improve a difficult situation in the hospital. The Board will prohibit doctors who work at the Clinic from private practice. However, doctors are not satisfied with the decision. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Nedeljka Breberina.

## **Kiseljka**

After a public tender for the privatisation of the "Sarajevski Kiseljak" company, representatives from the BiH Federation Agency for Privatisation announced that a company from Zagreb "Agrokor d.d. Jamnica" presented the best offer. However, management of the "Sarajevski Kiseljak" company ask the decision to be cancelled because they believe that the privatisation process was either illegal or wrong, Ana Drmac confirmed from Kiseljak for TV INFO.

## **Bihac**

The BiH Federation ombudspersons stick to their decision to return their jobs to four judges from Cazin who were forced to resign. However, the President of the Canton Court from Bihac claim the opposite. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Azra Bajric.

## **Sarajevo**

A piece on the credits granted by international donors to BiH farmers. However, farmers do not pay off the credits because they do not have a market in BiH where they would sell their

products and thus make a profit. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Anes Alic.

## **Fojnica**

An item on a visit of the military attaché s, accredited in Sarajevo, to the Franciscan Monastery in Fojnica. The report for TV INFO was produced by Branka Vrebac.

## **Travnik**

OSCE will provide the political parties and independent candidates in BiH technical support during the pre-election campaign in order to present themselves in the best possible way. From 1997, some 10 centers have been established in order to provide better cooperation between entities and political parties, Olivera Dimac confirmed.

## **Sarajevo**

A piece on an art exhibition in the Sarajevo Art Gallery "Novi hram" was produced by OBN reporter, Mirna Sadikovic.

## **Sport**

Reports on local and international football were presented.