OBN News Review, 25 December 1999

Headlines

- Beginning of the Christmas celebration with the holy midnight mass
- Final attack on Grozny
- Drama of hijacked Indian plane continues
- Topic of TV INFO: Draft law on slender and offense
- Debt of the state regarding the pre-war foreign exchange savings in the RS is some two billion DEM

The show began with the Christmas greetings to BiH Catholics.

World

Early in the morning, a final attack on the Chechen capital, Grozny, began. Russian armored troops have been moving towards the center of the town from several directions. Chechen pro-Russian volunteers participate in the attack too. This was followed by reports on the hijacked Indian plane currently in Afghanistan, current events in Ivory Coast, Middle East and Kosovo. The report on current events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Mladen Maric.

Sarajevo

In the Sarajevo Cathedral, exactly at midnight, the beginning of this year Christmas Holidays was marked with the holy midnight mass. All over Bosnia and Herzegovina celebrations of this great Catholic holiday have been organised. The Pope John Paul the Second opened the holy doors of the St. Peter Church in Vatican and thus officially marked the beginning of Church’s holy year, celebrated each 25 years. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sevko Bajic.

Mostar

The holy midnight mass in Mostar was headed by the Mostar-Duvno Bishop, Ratko Peric. The report on the celebration of the Holiday in the area was produced by OBN reporter from Mostar, Blazica Kristo.

Banja Luka

Catholics from Banja Luka attended the midnight mass after eight years. The midnight mass was headed by the Banja Luka Bishop, Franjo Komarica. Some 400 Catholics attended the ceremony. There were Serbs and Bosniaks attending the ceremony as well. Twelve police officers were in front of the church. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Milorad Milojevic.

This was followed by a report on the beginning of the Croatian election campaign in the RS. The President of the Serb Democratic Forum, Veljko Dzakula, said that some 292,000 could participate at the Croatian parliamentary elections. The Serb Democratic Forum invited all Serbs, refugees from Croatia, to vote at the forthcoming elections scheduled for January 3rd, OBN reporter, Milorad Milojevic, confirmed.

A report on the sixteenth session of the RS Social Party Main Board. The President of the Party, Zivko Radisic, said that they would try to prevent the establishment of the joint army in BiH because they see the future of the region as a de-militarized area. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Biljana Arsic.

A piece on a request made by Nikola Poplasen for the session of the RS National Assembly to be organised. The President of the RS National Assembly, Petar Djokic, said that he was not liable to do that because Poplasen was an ordinary citizen, Biljana Arsic confirmed for TV INFO. Poplasen has been dismissed from the position of the RS President by the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sarajevo

Professor Dzevad Jahic talked about the topic “Bosniaks and their Language” at the Council of Bosniak Intellectuals Congress meeting held today in Sarajevo. The Professor said that differences between Croat, Serb and Bosniak languages were special, and that those were differences of the special, Balkan South Slavic type. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Anes Alic.

This was followed by a report on the draft law on slender and offense adopted by the BiH Federation Government at their last session held in Sarajevo. The Government handed over the draft law for the parliamentary procedure. The cause for producing this draft law was the decision of the High Representative on the information freedom and canceling of prison punishments for slender and offensive. The new draft law includes big money fines for slender and offensive. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sanjin Beciragic.

This was followed by an analysis made by OBN reporter on how this new draft law, with very high fines, would impact the BiH media. Because of that, the BiH Federation Ombudspersons had remarks to this new draft law. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

Mostar

A piece on the damage in the Mostar area caused by the flood which occurred recently. The flood destroyed 109 houses. Families whose houses were destroyed live in difficult conditions. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Mostar, Alisa Dzebo.

Banja Luka

Debt of the state regarding the pre-war foreign exchange savings in the RS is some two billion DEM. Currently, the state do not have funds to return the money in cash. Some of the cases will be solved through the process of privatisation. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka,

Biljana Arsic.

This was followed by a report on the Best Bookseller Award established in Banja Luka within the event “Days of Book”. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Darko Savic.

Sport

A report on the wedding of the international football star, Ronaldo, was followed by a report on best football teams in the world announced by FIFA.