OBN News Review, 29 November 1999

Headlines

- A statement of the High Representative about the dismissal of 22 officials in BiH
- Pensioners from the BiH Federation ask the Government to pay three hundred million DEM of debt to the pension fund
- A two day conference of the Stability Pact for South East Europe started in Brdo near Kranj
- After a recent clash of criminals in Zagreb, the Croatian police increased monitoring of border crossings – police announced new actions
- The International Monetary Fund announce they would revise giving of loans to Russia because of the war in Chechenia

OHR and OSCE Decision

Today, twenty two elected or appointed officials were dismissed by the High Representative in BiH, Wolfgang Petritsch, and the Head of the OSCE Mission in BiH, Robert Barry, because of their obstruction of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Dismissed officials will be not allowed to be candidates for the forthcoming municipality elections in BiH, scheduled for next year. The statement of the High Representative why officials were dismissed, followed.

The guest of TV INFO was the Head of the OSCE Mission in BiH, Robert Barry. One of the presenters in TV INFO, Duska Jurisic, asked him why dismissals were made in a package, especially when some of them could have been dismissed much earlier? Robert Barry answered that they thought that the time before the elections was the right time for such a decision. He added that this was a clear sign that the obstruction would not be

tolerated and that regulations of the state had to be respected. The Head of the OSCE Mission in BiH also said that the decision on dismissal of officials was final.

Mostar

Warning letters were sent to three officials in Mostar. The Deputy High Representative in Mostar sent warning letters to the Mostar Mayor, Ivan Prskalo, his Deputy, Safet Orucevic, and the Deputy Head of the Neretva Hercegovina Canton, Rade Bosnjak. The Deputy High Representative wrote that those three officials were not acting for the benefit of Mostar and the Hercegovina Neretva Canton citizens. The OHR in Mostar set deadlines for the three above mentioned officials to solve a series of issues. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Pejo Gasparevic.

Brdo (Kranj)

A two day conference of the Stability Pact for South East Europe about constitutional and legal aspects of the stabilisation started in Brdo near Kranj in Slovenia. More than 100 legal experts from 20 countries of the South East Europe gathered at the conference. The Chairman of the Conference was Bodo Hombach, the Coordinator of the Stability Pact, Tomaz Gerden, confirmed for TV INFO. The Coordinator said that the first, political phase of the Pact was finished and that they were entering the second, concrete phase. He added that he hoped projects would be implemented after the donor conference scheduled for the spring next year.

Banja Luka

A report on the opening of the Federal Agency for Privatisation in Banja Luka today. The Prime Minister of the BiH Federation, Edhem Bicakcic, and Directors of Hubs for Privatisation from both BiH entities attended the ceremony. The BiH Federation Prime Minister met with the RS Prime Minister, Milorad Dodik. The main topics of their discussion

were new customs tax and property laws, OBN reporter from Banja Luka, confirmed.

Banja Luka

This was followed by a report on the session of the RS Defence Supreme Council. The session was organised on the initiative of the RS Vice President, Mirko Sarovic. There were no official announcements about the session.

Sarajevo

Today, the BiH Federation Parliament discussed the budget for next year. Representatives in the Representative House of the BiH Federation Parliament requested the Government's debt to pensioners be included in the draft budget for next year. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

World

After a recent clash of criminals in Zagreb, when a man was killed by an accident, the Croatian police increased monitoring of border crossings in Croatia and announced new actions. There were no new announcements regarding the health state of the Croatian President, reporter from Zagreb confirmed for OBN.

This was followed by a report on the incident which occurred in Kosovo. A Kosovo Serb was killed while two women were beaten last night in Pristina. According to the KFOR announcement, the attackers were local Albanians who were celebrating the State Day of Albania.

Russian troops continued their attacks on Chechenia. Some 80% of buildings in Grozny have already been destroyed. The International Monetary Fund announce they would revise giving of loans to Russia because of the war in Chechenia.

This was followed by reports on current events in Northern Ireland and Spain. The report on current events in the world

was produced by OBN journalist, Gordana Frimel.

BiH Borders

A piece on the establishment of the joint border service in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This was agreed in the New York Declaration and should stop illegal immigration via BiH. The International Center for Development of Migration Policy, with Headquarters in Vienna, together with experts from Austria, Sweden and Germany, have been trying to adjust the BiH border service to correspond with the European. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sanjin Beciragic.

Sarajevo

Twenty five Croat families received keys of their reconstructed houses in the Sarajevo residential quarter, Stup. The project was implemented through cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Sarajevo Canton. The project is worth 500,000 DEM.

This was followed by a piece on the opening of the Medical Center for making artificial limbs “Neretva”. The Center will provide help to a large number of people. The World Bank, the European Fund for Social Development and the Italian Government supported the opening of the Center, OBN reporter, Sefko Bajic, confirmed.

Sport

A report on the European Chess Championship and first successes of the BiH team, was followed by reports on NBA and skiing.