OBN News Review, 7 February 2000

Headlines

- Herceg Novi delegations of the BiH Federation and Montenegro signed a contract on electricity exchange worth 15 million DEM
- Approximately 4.2 million Croatian citizens voted for the new President
- Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina with Croatian citizenship voted in 14 polling stations
- The UK police are still negotiating with the kidnappers of the Afghanistan plane with 165 passengers and crew members on board
- The BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade announced the project of industrial development of BiH, worth 5 million dollars, for the spring
- The sixteenth International Festival "Sarajevska zima " (Sarajevo Winter) opened
- An official agreement on the establishment of the BiH joint Olympic team reached

Montenegro (Herceg Novi)

A delegation of the BiH Federation has gone to Montenegro on a two day visit. A contract on selling of electricity supplies worth 15 million DEM to Montenegro was signed in Herceg Novi today. The Prime Minister of the BiH Federation, Edhem Bicakcic, and the Montenegrin Prime Minister, Filip Vujanovic, met today. One of the results was that the systems of the BiH Federation and Montenegro would be linked in order to overcome the problem of non-existing payment operations system between the two, and there would be increased possibilities for the cooperation in the fields of transportation, trade, tourism. The report from Herceg Novi for TV INFO was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

Washington Window

OBN journalist, Vedran Persic, talked to the ex Representative of the USA in <u>NATO</u>, William Taft, through a live link with Washington. The topic of the interview was current relations between Serbia and Montenegro. William Taft said that the West would support the independence of Montenegro if the people of Montenegro decide to become independent.

Croatian Presidential Elections

The first unofficial results of the Croatian presidential elections will be announced at midnight. In the second round of the elections, approximately 3,8 million voters in the Republic of Croatia have been choosing between two candidates: Stipe Mesic and Drazen Budisa. The report from Zagreb for TV INFO was produced by Gordana Simonovic.

This was followed by a report on voting of Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Croatian presidential elections. Polling stations were opened at 7 a.m. in fourteen towns in BiH. In the Consular Department of the Republic of Croatia in Sarajevo there were 20% more voters than in the first round of the presidential elections held on January 24th, OBN reporter, Mirna Sadikovic, confirmed.

Some 38,000 Croatian citizens from six municipalities of the Srednja-Bosna Canton have voted in the second round of the elections for the new President of the Republic of Croatia. OBN reporter from Kiseljak, Ana Drmac, produced the piece.

In Mostar, an even bigger number of voters have voted in the second round of the presidential election, Blazica Kristo, confirmed. There were no incidents recorded.

Only two polling stations in the RS were opened, in Banja Luka and Brcko. According to the representative of the Croatian Embassy in Sarajevo, the number of Croatian citizens who voted in Banja Luka was small. Nedeljka Breberina produced the report from Banja Luka.

World

The UK police has continued negotiations with the kidnappers of the Afghanistan plane "Boeing 727" with 165 passengers and crew members on board which landed in London. Another 8 hostages were released today. The kidnappers demand the release of one of the anti-Taliban resistance movement leaders, currently imprisoned in Afghanistan. Russia continued bombing of the South of Chechenia. Reports on the election of the new President of Finland and the increase of KFOR French troops in Kosovska Mitrovica because of the new wave of violence were presented. The report on current events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Zeljka Lekic.

Sarajevo

According to a program of industrial partnership for BiH, the International Community is interested in the development of the country. According to a plan made by expert teams from Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNIDA, between 4,5 and 5 million dollars should be provided for the project, OBN reporter, Damir Kaletovic, confirmed.

Mostar

The deadline for submitting applications for the return to previous jobs expired two days ago. A piece on the submitting of applications in the Mostar Municipality was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Dubravka Vojinovic. Workers of the biggest pre-war companies in the area "Aluminij" and "Soko" were among the first of those who submitted their applications. Some 740 workers have submitted their applications to the "Aluminij" company while in "Soko" the number of applications is 1110.

Banja Luka

A piece on the process of privatisation in the RS was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Sanela Zivkovic. She confirmed that approximately 33,76% of the RS citizens have registered for the process of privatisation to date.

Sarajevo

An item on the production of milk in Bosnia and Herzegovina followed. The Government of Holland donated the equipment for control of the quality of milk, worth 190,000 DEM, for all ten cantons in the BiH Federation, OBN reporter, Anes Alic, confirmed.

Prijedor

Employees of the Film Center in Prijedor went on strike today because of low salaries and bad management. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Milena Letic – Joves.

Sarajevo

The sixteenth International Festival "Sarajevska zima" (Sarajevo Winter) was opened in Sarajevo today under the title, "Ab ovo". Sarajevo will be the host of the Festival from today until March 21st, Gordana Frimel, confirmed.

This was followed by a piece on the official opening of a four month festival "Britain – Bosna 2000" in Sarajevo today. A number of sports, cultural, economic and educational events will happen during the Festival.

Sport

An item on reaching of an official agreement on the establishment of the BiH joint Olympic team was followed by reports on international athletics, football and hockey.