

# OBN News Review, 9 February 2000

## Headlines

- The BiH Presidency determined a suggestion for Council of Ministers' changes
- The RS Government withdrew a previously proposed draft law on the privatisation of state-owned apartments
- The BiH Federation Minister of Defence think that foreign support for financing the BiH Federation Army is necessary
- Croatian Prime Minister, Ivica Racan, in his opening speech in the Croatian Parliament, stressed that Croatia would respect the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina is an independent state
- The new program of the Austrian Government was presented – the Austrian Chancellor said that his Government trusted in democratic values and tolerance
- Montenegrin President, Milo Djukanovic, said to OBN that international support to Montenegro was insufficient

## Sarajevo

Today, the BiH Presidency appointed Slavisa Vukovic as Director, and Muhamed Becic and Tomislav Mihalj as deputies of the BiH border service. BiH Presidency members, Jelavic, Izetbegovic and Radisic agreed on the new structure of the BiH Council of Ministers, according to the decision of the BiH Constitutional Court and the suggestions of the Madrid and New York declarations. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sanjin Beciragic.

The BiH Federation Minister of Defence, Miroslav Prce, thinks that foreign support for the financing of the BiH Federation Army is necessary, in order for the BiH Federation Army to avoid problems which could be caused because of unpaid

salaries to the soldiers. However, Prce was very clear that state money should be invested in the economy and not in the development of the army. The piece was produced by OBN reporter, Vedran Persic.

## **Banja Luka**

The RS Government withdrew a previously proposed draft law on the privatisation of state-owned apartments from the RS Assembly procedure, OBN reporter from Banja Luka, Sanela Zivkovic, confirmed. The RS Minister for Urbanism and Civil Engineering, Jovo Basic, explained the decision of the Government with the fact that a great number of amendments was submitted. He added that the new draft law will probably be ready within a ten day period.

## **Tuzla**

The deadline for submitting applications for the privatisation of companies in the BiH Federation expires tomorrow. In the Tuzla Canton, only 6 out of 36 companies' directors or boards have submitted their applications. The Prime Minister of the Tuzla Canton, Bajazit Jasarevic, warned again that all those who do not submit their applications would be dismissed. The report was produced by OBN reporter from Tuzla, Sabina Smajic.

## **Sarajevo**

This was followed by a report on the visit of the Secretary General of the World Trade Unions, Bill Jordan. His visit was organised just before the beginning of the negotiations between the state and the unions. The Secretary General met with the Co-Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, Haris Silajdzic, and the BiH Federation Prime Minister, Edhem Bicakcic. According to Bill Jordan, the solving of workers' problems lies in social partnership and common actions of all BiH syndicates. OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic, produced the report.

## **Podlugovi**

Workers from a private sawmill in Podlugovi went on strike. The reason for the strike was unpaid salaries for the last six months. Workers claim they were threatened they would be sacked on March 1st because of going on strike. However, the management of the company claim that workers agreed to stop working from that date and explained that salaries were late because of the lack of raw materials. OBN reporter, Damir Kaletovic, visited Podlugove.

## **Podgorica (Montenegro)**

Lately, Western officials have been expressing their concerns because of the increased danger of war starting in Montenegro. Besides political tension, social tensions in Montenegro have also increased because of a difficult economic situation. The regime from Belgrade has imposed a trade blockade to Montenegro, and the support of the international community is insufficient. The report on current situation in Montenegro was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

## **The Hague**

Today, the Court Council of the Hague Tribunal returned Zlatko Aleksovski to Hague detention. The Council accepted the request of the Prosecutor to increase his sentence in prison. Last year in May, Aleksovski was released after two and a half years in prison. The report from the Hague was produced by Vjera Bogati.

## **Zagreb (Croatia)**

Today, Croatian Prime Minister, Ivica Racan, presented to the Croatian Parliament a program of the Government until 2004. He stressed that Croatia would respect the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina is an independent state, OBN reporter from Zagreb, Gordana Simonovic, confirmed.

## **World**

The new program of the Austrian Government was presented today. Austrian Chancellor said that his Government trusted in democratic values and tolerance. This was followed by a report on current events in Chechenia. The Russian military officials announced that the final offensive in Grozny was going on. The report on these and other events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Zeljka Lekic.

## **Mostar**

The Minister of Internal Affairs of Neretva Canton did not submit a suggestion for the integration of the criminal police within the deadline. The [UN](#) Mission in BiH was not satisfied with an information that the suggestion would be submitted tomorrow. The report was produced by OBN Mirsad Behram.

Today, the OHR appointed Ivica Rozic for the new Head of the Mostar Municipality, South-West. The new Deputy is Mustafa Delic. At the same time, this means the implementation of the High Representative's decision on the dismissal of Stipe Maric, Dubravka Vojinovic confirmed from Mostar.

## **Sarajevo**

A piece on the opening of an art exhibition of painters from 18 Central Europe towns. OBN reporter, Gordana Frimel, produced the report.

## **Sport**

Reports on the local basketball team, international athletics and NBA were presented.