

# OBN News Review, 9 January 2000

## Headlines

- Chechenia – great losses of the Russian army in severe fights for Grozny – Russia deployed its troops for a new offensive
- London – a secret arm shipment for Libya discovered
- Why does the Director of the International Crisis Group, James Lyon, think that nothing will be achieved through the Stability Pact for South East Europe?
- Banja Luka – a celebration of the Republika Srpska Day organised in Banski Dvor
- The second day of Bajram marked through the visit of Sehid's graves

## Banja Luka

The central celebration of Republika Srpska Day was celebrated in Banski Dvor in Banja Luka. The Vice President of the RS, Mirko Sarovic, reminded of the importance of the establishment of the RS which happened seven years ago. He stressed that this year the holiday was celebrated in peace and liberty and that 2000 should be a year of reconciliation in the RS. The Prime Minister of the RS, Milorad Dodik, said that the RS is striving to become an element of peace and stability. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the town, Darko Savic.

This was followed by a report on the visit to the Banja Luka graves of dead soldiers by the RS Prime Minister and other RS officials. The report was produced by OBN reporter from the area, Biljana Arsic.

## Sarajevo

A report on the visit of Sehid's graves in Sarajevo within the second day of Bajram. The second day of Bajram was proclaimed for the Day of Sehids in order not to forget victims of the war. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Sevko Bajic.

This was followed by a report on the meeting of the Independent Intellectuals Association "Circle 99" held in Sarajevo today. The guest of today's meeting was the Head of the International Crisis Group in Bosnia and Herzegovina, James Lyon. The ICG emphasised two events which marked last year: The Summit of the Stability Pact for the South East Europe, and the cancellation of USA support for the process of privatisation in the BiH Federation. The expert on economics of the ICG, James Lyon, said that the BiH Federation Government and the BiH Federation Agency for Privatisation were to blame for stopping of US support. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Anes Alic.

A piece on the Stability Pact for South East Europe. The Pact lacks funds for the implementation of the talks' results. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Adis Saranovic.

## **World**

The Russian Army continued its artillery and air strikes against Chechenia. Russia has had immense losses in the fights for Grozny. Moscow announced another, decisive offensive in Chechenia. This was followed by a report on the continuation of the peace negotiations in the USA about the situation in the Middle East. Last year, on November 24, at London airport, parts for the production of missiles for Libya were discovered by customs officers.

In 1992 an arm embargo was imposed against Libya. The report on these and other current events in the world was produced by OBN journalist, Mladen Maric.

## **Germany**

A piece on the ex German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, followed. He said that he made a mistake regarding the financial operations of his party but that he wanted to serve the party. Radio Deutsche Welle reported that Kohl was not thinking of withdrawing from politics despite the affair of the secret bank accounts of the CDU party. The report was produced by OBN journalist, Mladen Maric.

### **Ex Prisoners of the Second World War in the RS**

The RS Red Cross has been gathering information about ex convicts and forced labourers in Germany during the Second World War. Some initial steps were made by the BiH Federation Red Cross as well. The representatives claim that they would receive compensation between five and fifteen thousand DEM. The German Embassy said that all issues are still open. The foundation which will deliver the money has not been established yet. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Vedran Persic.

### **Sarajevo**

A piece on a French man, Bouguelane, who was sentenced to twenty years in prison in BiH because of a series of robberies in the BiH Federation in 1996 and killing of a police officer and another individual. He will be handed over to the French authorities who want him because of the alleged assassinations. The decision was made by the BiH Federation Minister of Justice. Up to now, France has made several claims to the BiH authorities to hand over Bouguelane. The report was produced by OBN reporter, Amarildo Gutic.

### **Sport**

A report on the Bajram, traditional indoor football tournament in Sarajevo was followed by reports on international skiing, football and NBA.