OHR BiH Media Round-up, 25/3/2004

RADIO HERCEG	BH TV 1 (19,00	FED TV (19,30	RT RS (19,30)
BOSNA (18,00	hrs)	hrs)	
hrs)			
FBiH HoR in	FBiH HoR in	Floods in BiH	BiH Pres. On BiH
session	session		Generals
FBiH	BiH Presidency	BiH Presidency	Bosniaks object
Government's	session	session	Amendm.
session			
Circus show in	Bruce Jackson in	HoR adopted the	RS Official-
HoR	Sarajevo	Budget	EUPM Commis.
Impl. Of Prop.	HDZ initiative	New investments	Opposition about
Laws in Mo		in BiH	protests

Oslobodjenje	What stands behind HDZ request for abolishment of FBiH -
	Federation would disappear in four years
Dnevni Avaz	Military to be headed by 12 new generals
Dnevni List	"Rain-swollen Neretva is threatening Mostar again"; "HDZ is
	endangering way of reforms"
Vecernji	"Rivers have broken their banks"; "UHSP members want to
List	divide BiH"
Slobodna	"Old Bridge endangered — houses evacuated"; "Nothing has
Dalmacija	changed for citizens for Mostar, city is still divided:
	Unification on paper"
Glas Srpske	Assistance of RS Government to Kosovo: BAM 700 thousand to
	Kosovo

Nezavisne	Armed forces without "war-time" Generals; Niko Lozancic
Novine	announces possibility to disband F BiH Parliament:
	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina getting closer to
	early elections; Opposition sends message to authorities:
	Protests or elections

Defence/security

BiH Presidency decide on BiH armed forces structure

Herceg Bosna Radio, BHTV, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje pg. 5 'BiH Army will have 12,000 soldiers', Dnevni Avaz front page, pg. 2 'Military to be headed by 12 new generals', Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 2, 'Armed forces without "war-time" Generals'; Glas Srpske, pg. 2, 'War-time generals at ease!', Dnevni List (page 3 "Resignation of director of SBS adopted", by Erna Mackic), Slobodna Dalmacija (page 2 "Current generals to lose their positions", by \underline{F}), SRNA – The BiH Presidency adopted a decision on the overall size and structure of the BiH armed forces and a plan on the structure of the general corps at Wednesday's session. It was decided that the serving generals would not be appointed to the 12 military posts at the level of the Joint Command of BiH armed forces. The Serb member of the Presidency, Borislav Paravac, told a news conference held in Sarajevo after the body's session that the decision was made in order "to lift the burden of the war past", especially because it was very likely that people to be proposed for these posts received additional education in NATO camps and at international seminars. He added that posts reserved for generals in the Joint Command would be open to colonels, who would be promoted once appointed. Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'Future generals will meet the highest NATO standards' - Commenting on the BiH Presidency decision not to appoint current (wartime) generals to the new posts within the BiH armed forces structure, Bosniak member of the Presidency Sulejman Tihic said he had accepted such the orientation since he would not like that Bosniak generals deserving tremendous tributes and having their place in history come

into a unpleasant situation or possibly be compromised.

SCMM adopts	Herceg Bosna Radio, Oslobodjenje pg. 5 'War
defence	generals go to pension', Dnevni List (page 9
reform strategy	"Appointment of 13 generals next week", by <u>Renata Radic</u>), Vecernji List (page 3 "Decision of future structure of BiH armed forces", by <u>eme</u>) – At a session on Wednesday, the BiH Standing Committee for Military Matters (SCMM) adopted a draft report on the implementation of defence reforms in our country, which is going to be presented to NATO. According to the state Presidency chairman, Sulejman Tihic, the SCMM confirmed the agreed strategy that, within the agreed deadlines, state and entity institutions fulfill the required conditions so that BiH joins the Partnership for Peace at a NATO summit in Istanbul in June this year. It was agreed that, in line with NATO standards, the armed forces of BiH retain a total of 12,000 members, out of which 8,000 in the Army of Federation of
	BiH and 4,000 in the Army of Federation of BiH and 4,000 in the Army of the RS. It was agreed that the armed forces retain a total of 12 posts for the rank of general with an additional one within the Defence Ministry.
BiH	Oslobodjenje pg. 5 'Kovac resignation accepted',
Presidency	Dnevni List page 3 "Resignation of director of
accepts	SBS adopted", by <u>Erna Mackic,</u> Vecernji List
resignation	(page 4 "Kovac resigns from office of director
of State	of SBS", by <u>F</u>), Slobodna Dalmacija (back page
Border	"BiH Presidency accepts Relja Basic's
Service	resignation", by \underline{F}), SRNA – The BiH Presidency
director	on Wednesday accepted the resignation of the
	State Border Service (SBS) director, Relja Kovac, journalists were told by Presidency
	member Borislav Paravac. Paravac announced that
	the Presidency will resolve the issue of an
	efficient functioning of the DGS next week when it is going to place an ad for a new director.

Bruce	Dnevni Avaz pg. 3 'Apprehension of Karadzic is
Jackson on	the main pre-condition for joining PfP' — In an
relations	interview with the newspaper, Bruce Jackson, the
between BiH	President of the US NGO Project for Democracy in
and NATO	Transition having influence on decision being
	made by the US Administration, said that the
	officials in Washington, Brussels and Sarajevo
	wanted to see BiH in Partnership for Peace, but
	that the preconditions for such the outcome had
	to be fulfilled. "There is a good plan to
	achieve this made in cooperation with the
	international officials but it is not being
	implemented (appropriately). It is also very
	important that BiH fully cooperates with the
	Hague Tribunal and this includes apprehension of
	Radovan Karadzic,' said Jackson. Oslobodjenje
	pg. 7, mentioned on the front page 'Accession to
	PfP will cost nothing' also carried an interview
	with Jackson.

EUPM	RTRS, BHTV, Oslobodjenje pg. 9 'Concern about
Commissioner	attacks on religious facilities', Dnevni Avaz
meet with RS	pg. 8 'Carty rejected to comment on attacks on
political,	returnees', Nezavisne Novine, pg. 6, 'Mikerevic:
police	Corruption and crime impede development of
leaders	Republika Srpska'; Glas Srpske, pg. 3, 'To
	harness crime' — RS Prime Minister, Dragan
	Mikerevic, RS Minister of Interior, Zoran Djeric
	and Director of RS Police Radomir Njegus in
	separate meetings on Wednesday met with new EUPM
	Commissioner in BiH, Bartholomew Kevin Carty.
	Prime Minister, Dragan Mikerevic, said that
	capacity of RS Police, in cooperation with EUPM,
	should be strengthened for fight against
	organized crime. Commissioner Carty pointed that
	best result in this field would achieve
	appropriate Agency at the state level, like SIPA
	and that EUPM will provide all necessary
	assistance to this Agency. During a meeting with
	RS Minister of Interior and Director of RS
	Police Commissioner Carty mentioned the issue of
	protecting returnees' property and religious
	facilities. Director of RS Police, Radomir
	Njegus said that Commissioner had expressed
	concern about recent incidents, but he added
	that they had also talked about actual problems
	in BiH Police Institutions.
SFOR on	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 5, 'Human rights were not
detentions	violated' – Dave Sullivan, SFOR Spokesperson
	yesterday denied claims that SFOR violated basic
	human rights of people it had recently detained.
	He said that: "Within legal framework, SFOR is
	allowed to detain any person, suspected of being
	supportive of network of war crime suspects."
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SD on	Slobodna Dalmacija (front and page 5 "Mujahiddin
alleged	camp is in Milan, not Zenica", <u>I. Milesic</u>) —
terrorist	following reports by the Italian media, which
training	reported that the Madrid bombers were trained in
camp in	Zenica, SD carries a statement by the Ministry
Zenica	of Interior of Zenica-Doboj Canton, which says
	the MoI has no knowledge about it. Spokesperson
	of the Cantonal Police Commissioner, Admir
	Katica, admits that the "El Mudzahid" unit,
	which was formed of foreign nationals, was
	indeed a part of the 7^{th} Muslim Brigade of the
	BiH Army's 3 rd Corps, however Katica rejects the possibility that members of the aforementioned unit were connected to Al-Qa'ida and terrorism. According to him, some of those foreign
	nationals got BiH passports and settled in BiH
	as loyal citizens. SD also learns from a source
	close to the Cantonal MoI that the Italian media
	knew about the mujahiddin training camp in
	Milan, but kept the information away from the
	public

Political developments

FBiH HoR adopts draft Federation	Herceg Bosna Radio, BHTV, FTV, Oslobodjenje pg. 6, mentioned on the front page 'Draft federal budget adopted', Dnevni Avaz pg. 4 'HDZ, BOSS abstained, SDP deputies were against (the budget), Nezavisne
Federation budget for 2004	 Novine, pg. 3, 'Budget for 2004 adopted, HDZ MP's abstained from voting', Vecernji List (page 2 "Budget adopted without HDZ", by <u>E.</u> <u>Medunjanin</u>), Dnevni List (page 3 "Proposal of Federation budget for 2004 adopted", by <u>NINA</u>), Slobodna Dalmacija (Proposal of FBiH budget for this year adopted", by <u>E</u>), FENA – Following a two-day debate, the Federation of BiH House of Representatives adopted a draft entity's budget for 2004 at an extraordinary session held in Sarajevo on Wednesday. According to the draft proposed by the Federation government, the budget will amount up to 1.25 billion KM. A total of 55 deputies voted in favour of the draft budget, 14 voted against and 16 abstained. A majority of SDP deputies voted against while HDZ deputies abstained. Dnevni List (page 4 "Additional strike on Federation budget", by <u>M.</u> <u>B.</u>) – the SDP BiH minds the plan of FBiH Government to hire additional 188 people this year, claiming that the money should be instead spent on social welfare and subsidies to agriculture. Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 3, 'Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina getting closer to early elections' – Mato Franjicevic,
	Head of Croat Caucus at the Parliament of F BiH, said that HDZ and Caucus at House of Peoples of F BIH Parliament will today decide whether they would demand protection of vital national interest regarding the adoption of the budget of F BiH for 2004. If HDZ decides that budget is of vital interest, it would decelerate the final adoption of the budget.
	Niko Lozancic, President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, said he is engaged on consultations with his advisors. If they agree Constitution explicitly stipulates early elections, he would disband Parliament and convene early elections.
Initiative for	Oslobodjenje front page, pgs. 4-5 'Federation would disappear in
the abolishment of FBiH	four years' <u>Azhar Kalamujic</u> – The draft constitutional law on transfer of authorities from the Federation of BiH to the state of
	BiH and the cantons designed by HDZ BiH foresees complete abolishment of the Federation by 2006 without conditioning the development with the abolishment of Republika Srpska. The future state would one day be divided in 20 cantons, which would, according to the initiators, confirm the existence of a Swiss model in BiH. BHTV, FTV, Dnevni Avaz pg. 9 'HDZ's project would only make damage to Croats' also covered the issue.
UHSP demand reorganization of BiH	<pre>Vecernji List (front page, "UHSP members want to divide BiH", and page 3, "UHSP members demand establishment of Republic of Herzegovina", <u>by M. Stankovic</u>) – the UHSP (United Croat Party of</pre>
	Rights) issued a press release saying that this party believes that BiH entities should be abolished and that BiH should be organized as a state made of two federal units, that is, the Republic of Bosnia and the Republic of Herzegovina in their historical and geographical borders. According to the UHSP, the seat of the Republic of Bosnia should be in Travnik, while the seat of the Republic of Herzegovina should be in Mostar. UHSP also believes that Sarajevo should be organized as a District and be the BiH capitol city.

Vecernji List (page 2 "Destruction of Federation", by <u>Jozo Pavkovic</u>)
- the author argues that BiH, organized as it is with several levels
of authority, is the most complicated state in the world, which is
so expensive that even the US would not be able to afford it.
Pavkovic is of opinion that BiH does not need the entities, that the
entities need to be abolished and competencies be transferred onto
the State and cantonal levels. Pavkovic concludes that "if the IC
really wants to solve the BiH crisis, it must again go to Washington
or Dayton".

DA: SDA, HDZ, Party for BiH reached the agreement

Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'SDA, HDZ, Party for BiH reached the agreement' – According to the newspaper's source, the leaders of SDA, HDZ and Party for BiH have reached an agreement to de-block executive authority in the Federation of BiH. The leaders on Wednesday agreed that the Croat Ministers return to the FBiH Government soon and that the reforms aimed at BiH's joi9ning Euro-Atlantic integration are accelerated. According to the agreement, the FBiH Government will not be making decisions on the ethnic basis but the mechanisms for more efficient harmonisation of the proposals before their final adoption will be introduced.

On the other side, Dnevni List (front and page 2, "HDZ is endangering BiH way of reforms", <u>by M. Relota</u>) carries that the negotiations on the Federation of BiH Government crises that HDZ and SDA have had so far did not give visible results or concrete and finally harmonized stands. The article says that the resolution of the crises will be known by the end of this week and then it will be clear which way HDZ will take. DL also carries that SDA President Sulejman Tihic stated that the problems with HDZ are not such that they require breaking up of the partner's relations since it does not serve interests of the citizens who voted for these parties. Commenting on the HDZ demands for signing of the agreement between HDZ and SDA, Tihic says it is not necessary to sign the agreement since the protocol on cooperation, that defines goals and tasks on

whose realization it should be worked, already exists. Dnevni List (page 6 "Is brotherly love breaking up?", by <u>Professor</u> <u>Marko Tadic</u>) – reflects on the crisis within the FBiH authorities, noting that the alleged "conflict" between the SDA and HDZ is using the same old scenario. Arguing that the conflict is all about who controls important financial institutions, Tadic says the SDA is accusing, as usual, the HDZ of wanting more money and establishing the third entity, whilst on the other hand, the HDZ is using its good old tactics, namely the HDZ leaves the Government and starts talking about the Croat language and identity getting endangered, without mentioning the disputable FBiH Pension Fund. Tadic reckons that the conflict between the two parties will soon calm down, that the HDZ will vote in favour of the Law on Higher Education, which they contested so many times, and that the SDA and HDZ, "the two brotherly parties", as Tadic puts it, will continue "defending

national interests by securing new offices and funds". Nezavisne Novine, pg. 3, 'HDZ can demand early elections' – In a brief interview to NN, Elmir Jahic, SDA Vice President, says that SDA will not succumb to blackmail-like way for resolving problems in the work of the Government of F BiH. As a member of the negotiating team of SDA, which is holding talks with its coalition partner HDZ and trying to resolve the crisis of authority in F BIH, Jahic says that HDZ can demand early elections, but the question remains whether the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and BiH, can function through some system of blackmails or through dialogue and compromises.

<pre>Reactions to RS Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 4, 'Protests or elections'; GBs Srpske, pg. 2, 'Clear messages to authority' = SNSD, DNS and SPRS yesterday said that if the authority fails to acknowledge the message sent out from Tuesday protest, it can expect new protest until early elections are convened. Igor Radojicic, SNSD Secretary General, said that the authority must undertake some concret steps to improve the general situation in the Republika Srpska. He also expressed hope that Syndicates, which have been extremely silent and quiet lately, would become more active, because they represent the interests of workers. Miroslaw Mikes, Vice President of SPRS (Socialist Party of RS) said that opposition parties will consider new steps it would possibly undertake, which are to result in change of authority in the interest of Republika Srpska citizens. Mirok Banjac, Vice President of DNS (Democratic Peoples' Alliance) said that opposition parties will consider the possibility of holding similar protests in other citize across Republika Srpska, or it would apply new models such as collection of signatures for early</pre>
and whether it would react at all. He also says that the duthority

RSNA Speaker on cooperation with NDI	<pre>Glas Srpske, pg. 2, 'Co-operation bore fruit' - the RS Parliament Speaker, Dragan Kalinic, yesterday expressed thanks to NDI (National Democratic Institute) for the assistance this organisation has provided to Republika Srpska National Assembly over the last year. He stressed that the assistance has contributed to making the work of the Parliament more organised and constructive. According to press release issued by Kalinic Cabinet, the meeting discussed the plan on co-operation over the course of this year. NDI announced it would continue its work with Caucuses.</pre>
SD claims Mostar is still divided city	<pre>Slobodna Dalmacija (front and page 18, "Unification on paper", by E. Karamatic) argues that nothing has changed for the citizens of Mostar after the decision on unification of Mostar was passed by High Representative for BiH, Paddy Ashdown. According to the author, the division of the city is the most obvious in everyday life and most probably the situation will remain as such for a long time. SD says that many institutions in the city are still divided (post offices, ambulance services etc). The article notes that the Mostar Mayor, Hamdija Jahic, stated that, in the future, the City of Mostar would only finance those institutions that would be truly called the joint ones.</pre>
DL on meeting between Croat Education Ministers and OSCE and OHR	Dnevni List (front and page 5 "Croatian language 'on dropper'", by <u>Miso Relota</u>) - notes that the Coordination of Education Ministers of Posavina, Central Bosnia, Herzegovina-Neretva, West-Herzegovina and Canton 10, held one in a series of meeting with the OSCE and OHR yesterday, stressing that the public was not informed, by the time the newspapers went to the press, of conclusions from the meeting. DL suspects that, since there were no information from the meeting, that the "status quo" remains i.e. that nothing spectacular happened. DL goes on to wonder as to why the IC representatives are hard negotiators, why they do not try and reach a modality which would satisfy both parties. In that context, DL claims that the minimum that would satisfy the Croats is that the Croats be allowed to have classes in the mother tongue and to have their won curriculum.

Economic/social issues

Dispute	Nezavisne Novine, cover and pg. 5,
about	'Business premises, which "Krajina
premises at	Kopanik" sell, have no owner' — NN has
Medicinska	learnt at the Banjaluka City Hall that the
Elektronika	business premises at the third floor of A
building in	business complex of "Medicinska
Banjaluka	Elektronika" in Banjaluka, which "Krajina
	Kopanik Insurance" company has offered for
	sale, has not legal owner, because there
	is no licence for construction issued for
	these premises built onto the original
	building.
Protocol to	Glas Srpske, pg. 2, 'Census at the door';
review	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 10, 'Protocol for
status of	review of status of refugees and DP's
refugees,	adopted' — Ivica Marinovic, President of
DP's adopted	BiH Commission fir refugees and DP's, said
	that the Commission yesterday adopted the
	plan of activities on sustainable return.
	Slobodan Nagradic, member of the
	Commission, confirmed that the Commission
	adopted Protocol for review of the status
	of refugees and DP's by the end of this
	year.

Magtar	Clabedra Dalmanija (nama 21. "Drazavtu
Mostar	Slobodna Dalmacija (page 21, "Property
completes	Laws successfully implemented", <u>by Z.</u>
PLIP	<u>Zekic</u>) – international organizations
	seated in Mostar held a press conference
	yesterday during which an OSCE
	spokesperson, Richard Medic, expressed on
	behalf of the OHR, OSCE and UNHCR
	satisfaction over the property laws
	implementation. He added: "Property Law
	Implementation Plan Agencies congratulate
	the housing authorities in Mostar for
	having finalized the property law
	implementation process in their regions."
	Dnevni List (page 17, "Implementation of
	Property Laws in Mostar completed", <u>by S.</u>
	<u>Bjelica</u>)
CIA's	Slobodna Dalmacija (front and page 19,
estimation	"570 000 Croats in BiH", <u>by M. Landeka</u>) –
on size of	according to the Central Intelligence
BiH	Agency's data, in July of 2003, BiH had
population	3.989.018 inhabitants. Of this number,
	1.479.926 or 37,1 % are the Serbs,
	1.914.729 or 48 % are the Bosniaks and
	570.430 or 14,3 % are the Croats.
	According to these figures, there are
	200.000 less Croats than back in 1991.

Other issues

Terzic attends state commemoration in Madrid

Dnevni Avaz pg. 2 'In Madrid Terzic met with Powel, Schefer, Blair, Schroeder...', Oslobodjenje pg. 5, FENA – BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic headed the BiH delegation in Madrid on Wednesday at the state commemoration for victims killed in terrorist attacks in the Spanish capital on March 11 this year. Spanish King Juan Carlos I expressed the gratitude of the Spanish royal family for the presence of the BiH delegation at the commemoration, the BiH Council of Ministers stated. Terzic also briefly met British Prime Minister Tony Blair, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, US Secretary of State Collin Powell, Polish Prime Minister L. Miller, Romanian Prime Minister A. Nastase and Croatian Deputy Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor. Irish Prime Minister and current EU chair Bertie Ahern again commended efforts of BiH authorities on fulfilling conditions from the Feasibility Study and reiterated the determination of Ireland to support positive processes in BiH. A large number of heads of state from across the world, as well as senior EU and European Parliament officials took part in the commemoration.

SDA condemns	Dnevni Avaz pg. 9, FENA — The murder of
Israel's	the spiritual leader of Hamas, Shaykh
assassination	Ahmad Yasin, is a serious threat to the
of Hamas	future of the peace process in the Middle
leader	East, the Party of Democratic Action (SDA)
	has said. The SDA condemns this latest act
	of violence and calls on the UN, USA, EU
	and the Russian Federation to take an
	active part in resolving the situation
	which has ensued and help the peace
	process.
	The Middle East crisis can only be
	resolved on the principles of the
	recognized road map which envisages the
	right of the Palestinians to their own
	state, says the SDA.
RS assistance	Glas Srpske, cover page story, 'BAM 700
to Kosovo	thousand to Kosovo and Metohija' - Cvijeta
	Kovacevic, Head of RS Government Bureau
	for Public Affairs, yesterday confirmed
	that the assistance of BAM 700 thousand
	worth, which Republika Srpska Government
	has prepared for Serbs and other non-
	Albanian population in Kosovo and
	Metohija, will be sent from Bijeljina to
	Serbia tomorrow. DS Drimo Ministor Dragon Mikorovic
	RS Prime Minister, Dragan Mikerevic,
	yesterday addressed a letter to Serbian Prime Minister, Vojislav Kostunica. The
	letter reads: "We find local authorities
	in the province and international
	community to be mostly responsible for the
	escalation of violence in KosMet.
	Cocaracton of Atorence TH KOSher.

Hilmo Pasic	Nezavisne Novine, pg. 2, 'President of BiH
died	Election Commission Hilmo Pasic died';
	Glas Srpske, pg. 3, 'Hilmo Pasic died' —
	The President of BiH Election Commission,
	Hilmo Pasic, yesterday died in Sarajevo at
	the age of 70. Sarajevo media, Vecernji
	List, Dnevni List also reported on Pasic
	death.