OHR BiH Media Round-up, 29/12/2004

Latest radio news broadcast at 12.00 on29 December 2004

RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (12,00 hrs)	BH Radio 1 (12,00 hrs)
BiH HoP, HoR in session	Terzic addresses BiH HoR
FBiH Government in session	RS NA in session
RSNA in session	FBiH HoR in session

TV news broadcast on 28 December 2004

RADIO HERCEG-	BH TV 1(19,00	FED TV (19,30	RT RS (19,30)
BOSNA (18,00 hrs)	hrs)	hrs)	
Puljic&Nikolaj's	50.000 dead in S.	War crimes	DNS accepts
Xmas mes.	Asia	suspect arrest	Cavic's invite
Meeting in BIH	Meeting in BIH	Meeting in BIH	55000 killed in
Presidency	Presidency	Presidency	South Asia
FBIH HoR in	RS war archive in	Defence Ministry	Live from RS NA
session	Hague	on Mladic	
Ivanic confirms	War crimes	RS war archive in	RSNA session
resignation	suspect arrest	Hague	

Oslobodjenje	Successors to Ministers after New Year
Dnevni Avaz	Minister Radovanovic on apprehension of criminal Mladic:
	We have requested for US assistance
Dnevni List	Authority crisis continues
Vecernji List	Family from Croatia disappeared

Slobodna Dalmacija	Reservations for New Year celebration started as early as of summer
Glas Srpske	BiH young liberals demand introduction of Bosnian nation: The pupils of a bad teacher; Was Ratko Mladic hiding at Han Pijesak: No evidence; Sarajevo : Crisis is deepening
Nezavisne Novine	Leaders of ruling parties on BiH crisis: Nothing was agreed; Minister of Defence Nikola Radovanovic announces resignation; Christmas greeting of Bishops and Archbishops: Call for forgiveness and reconciliation addressed; Banja Luka : DNS to propose PM-designate
Blic	Cvijic family in search of his son
Vecernje Novosti	Refugees in Derventa: Hopes vanished a long time ago
Belgrade's Nacional	Features Serbian related topics

	LATEST NEWS OF TODAY
RS President	<pre>SRNA - RS President Dragan Cavic today</pre>
Cavic meets	informed the Head of the European
with EC's	Commission's Delegation to BiH, Michael
Humphreys	Humphreys, on the attempts of the RS
	political parties to find a way out of the
	crisis in RS and BiH in order not to
	threaten the reform process. A press
	release from the Office of the RS
	President says that Humphreys believed it
	was very important for the started reform
	processes not to stagnate, considering the
	results already achieved, especially in
	the last two years.

Terzic	BH Radio 1 by <u>Musatfa Karahmet</u> – The Chair
addresses	of the Council of Ministers, Adnan Terzic,
BiH HoR	this morning addresses the BiH House of
Din non	Representatives stressing that the current
	political situation in BiH has not
	endangered the pace of reforms in the
	country. He stressed that they will be
	continued in the next year when BiH is
	expected to commence with the negotiations
	on the Stabilization and Association
	Agreement. Terzic underlined htat the
	Ministries work normally and concluded
	that the solution to the crisis is the
	establishment of the new RS Government.
	"Once the issue of the RS Government is
	solved, we will have more clear idea
	whether something has to be changed in
	CoM," said Terzic.
RSNA in	BH Radio 1 by Radmila Grubisa – RS
session	National Assembly has continued with its
	session this morning discussing the RS the
	economic policies for 2005. The delegates
	agreed that the priorities are speeding up
	the privatization, improvement of the
	business atmosphere, decrease of deficit
	and reforms in the health and pension
	sector. RSNA will however not take stance
	on the defined policies until the new
	government is elected. In the course of
	the day, delegate will also discuss the draft RS budget for 2005, estimated to 946
	million KM, and resignation of the RS
	Prime Minister Dragan Mikerevic .

FBiH HoR in	BH Radio 1 b <u>y Nermina Sunj</u> – FBiH House of
session	Representatives has continued with the
	session this morning, and is expected to
	the stance on the rebalance of the FBiH
	budget for 2004. Following the discussion
	yesterday, it was concluded that the 23
	million KM excess of the budget for 2004
	was a result of paying off some debts from
	2003 and financing the institutions
	established after the adoption of the
	budget. Delegates will also discuss the
	draft Law on FBiH law practice.

	Political developments/Cooperation with ICTY
BiH political	RHB, BHT, FTV, RTRS, Oslobodjenje cover page, pgs 4-5 'Successors to Ministers
leaders to	after New Year' by <u>Vedrana Zivak</u> , Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Terzic: First step should
continue	be establishment of RS Government' by <u>A. Malagic</u> – The BiH Presidency and the
debate on	Council of Ministers held a joint session in Sarajevo on Wednesday to discuss
political	the current political situation in the country related to the crisis of
crisis after	Government in RS. The draft Budget of the BiH Institutions for the next year
New Year	was also adopted at the session. Journalists were told after the session that
	the talks on the stabilization of the political situation in the Council of
	Ministers caused by resignations submitted by two Ministers from the ranks of
	the Serb people would be continued after the New Year holydays. Asked that it
	meant that the crisis in CoM had been overcome, CoM Chairman Adnan Terzic said
	the yesterday's meeting was significant to anyone who was well-intentioned.
	"In order to speak about is the crisis overcome first we should determine did
	it exist ate all. We had a situation, which made our normal work impossible
	and we cannot tell this has been resolved. However the start of talks on the
	issue encourages and speaks for itself that we are going in a direction
	leading to removal of the causes," emphasized Terzic. On the other side,
	Chairman of the BiH Presidency Borislav Paravac claims that the crisis exists
	and that it has been even deepening particularly following Defense Minister
	Nikola Radovanovic's announcement that he would not participate in work of CoM
	as long as the two ministerial seats are not filled after resignations by
	Mladen Ivanic and Branko Dokic. Dnevni List front pg splash and pg 3
	'Authority crisis continues' by E. Mackic, Vecernji List pg 6 'Meeting because
	of authority crisis' <u>by dja</u> , <mark>Slobodna Dalmacija</mark> last pg 'Budget for 2005
	amounting to 581,3 million KM' by D. Pasic, Nezavisne Novine cover 'Nothing
	was agreed' and pg 3 'No solution to the crisis' by <u>M. Cubro</u> ; Glas Srpske
	cover page report 'Crisis is deepening'; EuroBlic RSpg 2 'Paravac: Situation
	is rather serious'; Glas Srpske pg 5 'No Agreement' by <u>N. Z.</u> also covered the
	issue.

DL editorial	Dnevni List pg 3 'In New Year with old crisis' by D. Polovina-Mandic carries
on BiH	an editorial on the yesterday's meetings regarding the executive authority
Presidency,	crisis and the author says that the only thing that participants of these
CoM, political	meetings could agree upon was to prolong resolving of the crisis to the next
parties	year. According to the editorial, in this way the politicians sent a clear
meeting	message to BiH citizens, which says that the next year will not be any better
	for them (the BiH citizens), while BiH politicians will continue to receive
	salaries for various political games and resolving of artificial authority
	crisis.

BiH Defence Minister Radovanovic on Mladic, possible resignation, defense reform

RHB, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni Avaz cover page 'We have requested for US assistance', pg 2 'Investigation related to Ratko Mladic's hiding launched' by <u>M. Kukan</u>, Oslobodjenje pgs 4-5 'There is no place in military for those protecting Hague indictees' by <u>A. Prlenda, Dnevni List</u> pg 5, mentioned on front 'Investigation on hiding of Ratko Mladic launched' <u>not signed</u>, Vecernji List pg 5 'Investigation on R. Mladic' <u>by dja</u>, Slobodna Dalmacija pg 6 'Investigation on hiding of Ratko Mladic launched in BiH' <u>by H ,Nezavisne Novine</u> pg 2 'We will

know by 10 January whether anybody was hiding Ratko Mladic' by N. Krsman; Glas Srpske cover page report 'No evidence'; EuroBlic RSpg 2 'Radovanovic: No evidence on Mladic', FENA – BiH Defence Minister Nikola Radovanovic publicly warns all members of the BiH Armed Forces (OSBiH) that hiding, providing shelter, withholding information and every other form of helping the persons indicted for war crimes is a criminal act, in accordance with the laws in BiH. "Every member of OSBiH that is engaged in such activities will be subjected to

disciplinary procedure, suspension from military duty or criminal

prosecution", Radovanovic on Tuesday told a press conference in Sarajevo on Wednesday. In this context, he expressed hope that the members of OSBiH would perform responsibly and professionally. The State Defence Minister has

informed the press about the activities that have been taken after the High Representative had addressed him a letter on December 16 informing him that the indicted war crime suspect, **Ratko Mladic**, was discharged from the RS Army in 2002 and that information exist that Mladic had resided in an underground military facility near Han Pijesak in June and July this year. Radovanovic

said that the BiH Defence Ministry was required to carry out certain investigations and activities. It was requested that the Ministry identifies the weaknesses, highlights individual omissions and recommends measures for preventing the possibilities of supporting and hiding the indicted war crime suspects in military facilities. The Ministry is expected to forward the relevant report to the High Representative by February 14, 2005. However, Radovanovic emphasized that Defence Ministry had still no clear evidence to confirm the allegation that Mladic stayed in the military complex at Han

Pijesak.

Dnevni Avaz pg 2 inset 'Possible resignation' - BiH Defence Minister, Nikola Radovanovic, confirmed that he would resign in case the session of the Council of Ministers is scheduled without reaching political agreement and legitimate composition of CoM. "Nobody asked from me to resign. On the contrary, people from several sides asked me not to resign and I have not offered it. The situation in which I do not belong to any of the parties is sensitive. In the situation when two out of four Serb ministers have resigned, I believe I carry responsibility of a representative of any political option of Serb people in BiH. That is why my participation in CoM is problematic," said Radovanovic. Dnevni List pg 3 'Radovanovic did not attend session' not signed, Nezavisne Novine cover 'Minister of Defence Nikola Radovanovic announces resignation' by M. Cubro, Glas Srpske pg 5 'Resignation possible' also carried the statement. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 inset 'Abolishment of entities' ministries' – BiH Defence Minister, Nikola Radovanovic, commented that the decision to abolish the entities' ministries of the defence, together with Interior Ministries, has lead to current situation of problems in the authorities. He added that the abolishment also requires drafting the new BiH defence law. Radovanovic believes that all this will be preceded by the discussions until consensus reached. Asked whether this included the change to the BiH Constitution, Radovanovic added that this can be concluded especially when talking about abolishing entities' Interior Ministries.

Ivanic denies he will withdraw resignations	<pre>Oslobodjenje pg 3 'Ivanic denied allegations on withdrawing resignation' by Az. K BiH Foreign Minister, Mladen Ivanic confirmed on Wednesday that his and [Communications and Transport Minister] Branko Dokic's resignations to the their positions in the Council of Ministers are irrevocable. Denying allegations that he might withdraw his resignation under some conditions, Ivanic stressed: "I will not withdraw my resignation The first reactions [to my resignation] were that it was the only logical move I could made, which was followed up by the criticism with explanation that I want to obstruct reforms with resignation." Dnevni Avaz pg 3 'Calming down situation depends on key political parties' by M.Dr Ivanic said that the resignations were individual act, adding that calming down situation in the country depends on political parties with parliamentary in both entities. RHB, Dnevni List pg 6 'Ivanic: I do not have intention to withdraw resignation' by D. Polovina-Mandic also carried Ivanic's statement. Oslobodjenje pg 3 inset 'Eighty diplomats withdrawn' - At a New Year's reception for journalists held in Foreign Ministry building in Sarajevo, Ivanic said that in the past year the Ministry has completed a number of tasks, and meeting almost all its conditions leading to beginning of the Stabilization and Association Agreement's negotiations. He further stressed that his Ministry has significantly improved its internal structure, and replaced 80 diplomats in consular offices and embassies throughout the world. Glas Srpske pg 3 'A step closer to Europe' by FENA also covered the issue.</pre>
Former HR	
Petritsch: The	Dnevni Avaz pg 5 'The main problem is Serb leadership' by <u>Sead Numanovic</u> – Former High Representatives in BiH, Wolfgang Petritsch , comments for DA on the
main problem	current situation in BiH stating "still the main issue is Serb leadership in
is Serb	BiH." "I hope that they will, together with Bosniaks and Croats, also
leadership	understand that entirely sovereign BiH is the best way for speeded progress
	<pre>towards Europe," says Petritsch adding that he is glad that current Croat leadership accepts the idea of BiH statehood. "They are miles away from conspiracies against BiH made by [Franjo] Tudjman and [Slobodan] Milosevic," adds Petritsch underlying that without Croats multiethnic Bosnia is not possible. Former HR concludes that the case of Hercegovacka Bank showed who really stole from Croats, adding the case is now at the court and not a matter for the international community.</pre>
RS Association	RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'BiH on "crutches" of international community' by
of Lawyers on	<u>N. M.; Glas Srpske pg</u> 5 'Let the people rule' by <u>M. Dizdar</u> – The RS
HR's measures	Association of Lawyers on Tuesday held a debate on the constitutional and legal position of the state. Snezana Savic, the member of the Association, stated that nine years after the Dayton Peace Agreement, BiH was still standing "on crutches" of the international community instead of standing on its feet. The Presidency of the Association called on HR Paddy Ashdown to get back
	within his powers, and to act as interpreter in the implementation of the
	Dayton Agreement instead of being framer of constitution and legislation.
	Oslobodjenje pg 2 'Ashdown should return into the framework of his power' also carried the reaction.
DNS to propose	Nezavisne Novine cover and pg 4 'DNS to propose PM-designate' by <u>V.P.</u> – DNS
RS PM-	Presidency accepted the offer of RS President, Dragan Cavic, to propose RS-PM
designate	designate. According to <i>NN</i> , DNS officials would today (Wednesday) inform RS President of this and would offer the names of three designate, announced Drago Kalabic , DNS MP. He did not want to disclose the names of potential candidates before consultations with President take place.

Update to talks on PM- designate	<pre>EuroBlic RSpg 2 'Agreement as hard as crisis' by Rajna Radosavljevic The report ntoes that although no agreement has been reached as yet regarding the nomination of the RS PM-designate and although Dragan Cavic, RS President, said that a third concept, according to which DNS would propose designate, was also rejected, Drago Kalabic, DNS member, on Tuesday told the press that DNS "is seriously considering Cavic's proposal". According to him, DNS would give its stance on this after its Presidency session. Kalabic further added that a designate from DNS would be able to collect 42 MP's votes. While SDS did not want to make any comment on this, PDP official, Nevenka Trifkovic, said that nothing was resolved as yet and that "any option is still open". She also added that PDP did not dispute the nomination of Milorad Dodik either, adding that MP's on Tuesday largely speculated on the issue of such an importance. Igor Radojicic, SNSD Secretary General, stated: "We are not collecting the famous 42 votes, neither are we in the phase of proposing the designate, since concept has not been adopted. Neither do we expect proposal that this function should be assigned to somebody from DNS." Tarik Sadovic, Head of SDA Caucus at RS NA, stated: "Nobody ahs consulted with us, either have we been lobbied, but our support will depend on the position we would hold within new government composition. We find none of the offered concepts acceptable, since it would not brings us any further." Muharem Murselovic, Party for BiH MP at RS NA, said that this party agreed with the concept, according to which Party for BiH would not be a part of new government composition, stressing that it would not be apart of new government soy Kalabic, Sadovic, Trifkovic and Radojicic. According to the daily Radojicic also said that the early elections were the only way out of the crisis. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'It is unrealistic that a smaller party</pre>
	of the crisis. Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'lt is unrealistic that a smaller party nominates PM designate' carried Radojicic's statement. BHT, RTRS also covered the issue.
Dnevni Avaz pg SNSD responds to SDA	Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Agreement of parties from RS does not violate BiH Constitution' by <u>A. S.; Glas Srpske</u> pg 5 'False comparison' by <u>N.D.</u> – SNSD on Tuesday released a press statement reacting upon statement of SDA (comparing Agreement six parties in RS signed with the case of "Croat self-rule"), rejecting SDA claims that the Agreement was in violation with the BiH Constitution. The release reads: "The Agreement is aimed towards preserving the RS within BiHWe call on SDA to respect BiH Constitution, the rights of constitutive peoples on protection Constitution is offering to them and the right of political parties to freely act."

Transparency International BiH: Strong ties between political elites and crime	FTV, Oslobodjenje pg 8 'Strong ties between political elites and crime', Dnevni Avaz pg 2 'OHR should accept a part of responsibility as well (should partly be held responsible), Glas Srpske pg 2 'OHR also responsible' by N. Z.: Nezavisne Novine pg 6 'OHR also responsible for the situation in BiH' by D.R. FENA – The year coming to an end has been marked by a negative trend because key challenges that the country is facing, the establishment of a functional, stabile and self-sustainable system of authority, the bond between organised crime and ruling elites, growing corruption and organised crime will remain a concern in the future, Transparency International BiH (TIBiH) stated in its report to the media for 2004. TI stated that the brunt of the responsibility for this situation lies with the parties and individuals in power, but the responsibility of the international community, especially OHR, can also be brought into question. The institution that entirely or partially performs constitutional, legislative, executive and judicial authority with practically limitless powers should at least accept a part of the responsibility for the situation in BiH. TI global researches clearly show that BiH is joining the part of the world with uncontrollable corruption and the rule of organised crime. BiH has dropped from position 70 in 2003 to 82 in 2004 on the list ranking countries from the "cleanest" to the "most corrupt". Claims on links between political elites and organised crime have also been confirmed which has a negative impact on the business environment and the influx of foreign investments. At a conference held in Meridil, Mexico , on the occasion of December 9, the International Anti-corruption Day, it was stated that BiH has still not signed the UN Convention on Fighting Corruption. Extremely pessimistic assessments about the situation in BiH were also heard at the conference, including the loss of 1,5 billion KM to corruption, that the state will go bankrupt by 2006, more than 80 million KM ending up in p
NN op-ed on Ashdown	Nezavisne Novine op-ed pg 7 'Ashdown's settlement of accounts' by <u>Tanja Topic</u> — The author is comparing the statements given at the end of last year with statement given at the end of this year (including the statement of HR Paddy Ashdown), stressing that BiH has not achieved any progress in 2005 as planned by HR, apart from one and only progress in 2005 — publication of Srebrenica Commission report. On this she stresses that regardless of what somebody may think of Dragan Cavic, we must give him credits for this.
A war crime indictee arrested in Brcko	BHT, FTV, RTRS, Dnevni List pg 4 'New arrests of indictees from The Hague arrest warrants' by T. Bijelic, Oslobodjenje pg 5, mentioned on cover 'Chief of concentration camp arrested', Dnevni Avaz pg 4, Nezavisne Novine pg 2 'Konstantin Simeunovic arrested' by <u>SRNA</u> – Brcko Special Police on Tuesday in Brcko arrested Konstantin Simeunovic aka Kole, charged with war crimes committed during the war in the area of Brcko. According to anonymous source at the Prosecutor's Office, Simeunovic has been placed at Brcko police detention unit. He was arrested at his home.

Economic/social issues

FBiH HoR	FTV, Oslobodjenje pg 6 '2005 Budget
adopts 2005	amounting up to KM 1.012 billion', Dnevni
Budget	Avaz pg 8 'Budget amounting KM 1.012
Dudget	billion adopted', Dnevni List pg 5 'Budget
	bigger for 7 millions KM' <u>by J. Petrovic</u> ,
	Vecernji List pg 5 'Additional 5 millions
	KM for medical treatment' by E.
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	<u>Medunjanin, SRNA</u> – Deputies to the FBIH House of Poprosontatives on Wednesday
	House of Representatives on Wednesday
	adopted the Federation's draft budget for
	2005 to the amount of KM 1.012 billion.
	Federation Premier Ahmet Hadzipasic
	described the budget in his opening speech
	as "stabilizing and relatively
	development-oriented". The deputies asked
	the Federation Government to increase
	government revenues and use these funds to
	facilitate the return of refugees and
	stimulate agriculture.
Maric and	Dnevni List pg 3 'Ministers on financing
Terzic on	of cultural institutions' <u>not signed</u> —
financing of	Asked whether it was replied to the demand
cultural	of High Representative Paddy Ashdown to
institutions	include 7 cultural institutions in the
	budget for the next year, BiH Treasury
	Minister Ljerka Maric stated that the
	proposal of BiH Minister of Civil Affairs
	Safet Halilovic was adopted and that 1
	million KM has been envisaged for this
	purpose for the next year. Chairman of the
	BiH Council Ministers Adnan Terzic added
	that the cultural institutions were
	included in the budget not because of the
	HR's demand but at the demand of BiH CoM.

Update to	Glas Srpske pg 2 'End to Steering Board' –
Telekom	At Tuesday's session in Banja Luka, the
Srpske	shareholders of Telekom Srpske adopted
	changes to Statute of the company, in
	order to harmonise it with Law on public
	companies, which stipulates the
	abolishment of the Steering Board and
	introduction of management at public
	companies.

Miscellaneous

Joint Christmas message of Catholic and Orthodox Bishops/Puljic and Nikolaj on Inter-religious Council

RHB, BHT, FTV, Dnevni List pg 2, mentioned on front, 'Just society is not possible without believing in God' by D. Polovina-Mandic, Vecernji List pg 5 'To build our homeland BiH fairly', mentioned on front 'To build fair BiH together' by <u>D. Jazvic</u>, **Slobodna Dalmacija** pg 9, mentioned on front 'Catholic and Orthodox believers in Christian unity' by Z. Rerig, **Oslobodjenje** pg 2 'Faith, hope and stimulation', Dnevni Avaz pg 5, Nezavisne Novine cover 'Call for forgiveness and reconciliation addressed' and pg 5 'Catholic Church and Serb Orthodox Church called on forgiveness and reconciliation' by N. Krsman; **EuroBlic** RSpg 5 'For peace and good will' by D.S.; **Glas Srpske** pg 3 'Faith is stronger than evil' by N. Zelenovic – Vrhbosna Archbishop Cardinal Vinko Puljic and Metropolitan Dabrobosanski Nikolaj sent a joint Christmas message of Catholic and Orthodox Bishops. On this occasion Metropolitan Nikolaj stated that it is high time that domestic and international representatives do what is necessary in order to make possible for BiH citizens to live on their work and without fear of discrimination and to have a right to return to their pre-war homes. Insets in DL under headline 'Cooperation of religious communities' not signed and in SD under

headline 'Inter-religious Council in crisis' not signed carry that commenting on the suspension in the work of the BiH Inter-Religious Council, Cardinal Puljic reiterated that it is not questionable whether they should look for the way for cooperation or not, however, religious communities in BiH do not want that political structures and the International Community tell them how they should do it. On the same issue Metropolitan Nikolaj stated that the Serb Orthodox Church froze the work of its representatives in this body 'after Orthodox priest Jeremija Starovlah and his son were brutally beaten up by SFOR members'.

Further	Glas Srpske cover page story 'The pupils of a bad
comments on	teacher' by <u>Snj. M.</u> – The report brings some more
SDA/liberals	comments on the demand of BiH young liberals
demand for	regarding the introduction of Bosnian nation in
creation of	BiH, supported by SDA officials, Sulejman Tihic
Bosnian nation	and Seada Palavric.
	Braco Kovacevic, sociologist, claims that demand
	for artificial creation of a nation has no grounds
	and it would additionally complicate the situation
	in BiH. He also warns that the demand of liberals
	may also be interpreted as further pressure
	against RS.
	Arandjel Smiljanic, Professor at the Banja Luka
	Faculty of Philosophy, reminds that Benjamin Kalaj
	made the similar attempt during the reign of
	Austro-Hungarians in BiH, and later on gave up on
	this project having realised it was futile.
	According to inset 'It would not be accepted', the
	BiH Croat Christian Democratic Union
	On Tuesday warned that Bosniaks were attempting to
	"drawn" Serbs and Croats into quasi-nation,
	stressing that Serbs and Croats have known for
	years who they are, which makes them and their
	history, culture and language recognisable.
Update to names	RTRS, Nezavisne Novine pg 4 'Law waiting for
of towns with	stance of City Hall' by <u>S. G. –</u> A joint Commission
Serb prefix	of the RS NA and RS COP on Tuesday failed to agree
	on the text of the Law on the city of Serb
	Sarajevo, since the Assembly of S. Sarajevo had
	not still taken the stance whether it would accept
	the name East Sarajevo. Momir Malic, Co-
	Chairperson of the RS CoP, is convinced that the
	City Assembly would accept this name. Oslobodjenje
	pg 6 also covered the issue.