OHR BiH Media Round-up, 30/5/2003

CROAT RADIO HERCEG-BOSNA (18:00 hrs)	**BH TV 1** (19:00 hrs)	**FED TV** (19:30 hrs)	**RT RS** (19:30)
HR on BiH Intelligence	HR on single intelligence	HR on single intelligence	Funeral of Galic on 05/31
OSCE on military downsize	Strikes in BL and Tuzla	FBiH PM on military prodct	RS Assembly in session
Croatia-BiH cooperation	RS Assembly in session	Tuzla Canton Assembly	Single intelligence agency
	Tony Blair visits Iraq	Anniversary of VN centre	Tunnel construction
			Blair visits Iraq

Oslobodjenje	The property of Cengic, Alispahic, Sahinpahic blocked; Alarming situation in the Federation Army – less and less of food; New HR's decision – forming of a state intelligence service
Dnevni Avaz	The property of 120 persons blocked; Put a stop on the intelligence chaos; Tihic on EU position – we want Americans to stay in BiH;
Dnevni List	HR passed a decision on reform of the intelligence services – last preparations for the unified BiH Intelligence Service; Agreement on Ploce Port without an international mediator; Rade Bosnjak is leaving the position of Secretary General?

Vecernji List	Change of the DPA as early as Autumn; Bombs from Petricevac destroyed; The most expensive authority is in Mostar; Paddy Ashdown – secret services are shutting down
Slobodna Dalmacija	Alkar Bosko Ramljak, former Head of the SIS in Split – I am seeing and helping General Gotovina; The Constitution is obstacle to state; Islamic paroles on fence of Holy Mary's statue
Glas Srpske	Banjaluka – laundered the money, evaded the taxes; Banjaluka – a search for bombs
Nezavisne Novine	Paddy Ashdown and Kalman Kocsis in Sarajevo – a single BiH intelligence service as of next year; Former Head of Republika Srpska Army General Staff died – funeral of General Talic with full military honours; The Republika Srpska government – names of owners of fuel stations selling artificial fuel by 1 July; Banjaluka medical staff demand payment of salaries – Clinical Centre staff on strike
Blic	Doctors on strike; The government dismissed Gligoric due to his party-related appearances; Fight between the PDP and SDS for the position of the Tax Administration director; Works at the Fatnik tunnel resumed
Slobodna Bosna	The magazine ironically renamed itself into 'Slobodni Avaz' referring to its ongoing disputes with the Sarajevo daily
BH DANI	VC corridor – a dream or reality
Ljiljan	Lovrenovic or Alibabic

HR's decision on single intelligence

Electronic media reports	BHTV1 at 19:00 hrs by Marina Boskovic – HR Paddy Ashdown announced a decision on the establishment of the Expert Commission for Intelligence Service Reform. The Commission's task is to draft a proposal on unified intelligence service at the level of Bosnia-Herzegovina and regulations and laws in this field – in line with democratic principles and European standards – by August 1 this year. According to Ashdown, the new state level law must replace the current entity laws. "I expect the BiH Parliament to adapt the amendments promptly so BiH could have unified, operational and civilian intelligence service by 1 January 2004," said Ashdown. The Commission will consist of seven members, six of whom will be appointed by Directors of the existing intelligence services. Chairman of the commission will be a senior advisor from the Hungarian intelligence agency and former Hungarian Ambassador to BiH, Kalman Kocsis. "This is the right moment for change because there are a lot of security threats that this country has to face," said Kocsis. CRHB at 18:00 hrs by Zana Rebo – recommended laws will be submitted for further parliamentary procedure and Ashdown expects and demands from the Parliament to adopt them immediately. That way, a single BiH intelligence service would be established by January 1 next year. FTV at 19:30 hrs by Zeljko Tica – the reason for the consolidation of the intelligence sector in BiH is the fact that intelligence services are under control of politicians and parties and out of parliamentary control. "It is time for putting an end to it. The intelligence services are more often used against citizens and they are often out of control. BiH doesn't need a secret police to spy on citizens out of political reasons," said Ashdown. A statement by the Commission Head Kocsis was broadcast. "The nature of this law will be protective. It is going to protect state from internal and external threats, citizens' rights, politicians from service and service from politicians and baseless citizens' complaints," said Kocsis. RTRS at 19:30 hrs by Milan Stojic – "New structure will allow citizens to sleep peacefully," said Ashdown.

CRO press reports	Dnevni List pg. 1 and 5 – HR Paddy Ashdown issued a decision on the establishing of an Expert Commission on Intelligence Reform, charged with producing a proposal for setting up a single intelligence structure in BiH. Reported what the Commission was in charge of and what are the deadlines imposed. HR Ashdown also announced the appointment of Kalman Kocsis, a former Hungarian Ambassador to BiH and former head of the Hungarian intelligence service, as the Chairman of the Commission. A further six professional members of the Commission, three from each entity intelligence service, will be appointed shortly by the heads of the intelligence services. Also reported in Vecernji List pg. 1 and 3.
RS press reports	Nezavisne Novine pg. 1 and 3, Glas Srpske pg, 3 'Single intelligence service' – the High Representative to BiH, Paddy Ashdown, yesterday passed a decision on the establishment of the intelligence reform commission, which should work out the legal presumptions and proposals on the establishment of a single BiH intelligence service. Responding to a press question, the HR confirmed that the establishment of a single intelligence service would represent an end to the entity services. The entity intelligence services yesterday welcomed the establishment of a single intelligence agency.
Federation press reports	Avaz pg. 1 and 3 – on the HR's decision from yesterday regarding the establishment of the Commission. The daily carried statements by both HR Ashdown and the newly appointed Head of the Commission Kocsis. On pg 2 the daily carries a reaction by RS PM Dragan Mikerevic. He said reforms were necessary in the BiH intelligence sector and welcomed the establishment of the Commission. Oslobodjenje pg. 1, 4 and 5 – another extensive report on yesterday's press conf by the HR where he announced his latest decision on BiH intelligence services. Sulejman Tihic supported yesterday's decision by the HR, but objected the fact that the newly established Commission will include personnel from the entity intelligence services. Tihic thinks they will not devise a good law.

Serbian press reports	Blic pg. 3 'Hungarian brings in order' – "BiH no longer needs a secret police service to spy on its citizens for political reasons, but a modern, professional, European safety service," said High Representative Paddy Ashdown yesterday in Sarajevo while promoting his decision on the establishing a seven-member Expert Commissionfor reform of intelligence services in BiH.

Political Affairs	
US on the bilateral agreement with BiH	CRHB at 18:00 hrs – the US embassy in BiH refuses to comment a letter by the Head of the EU on the ratification of the BiH – US bilateral Agreement. The letter warns BiH of consequences in case the Agreement was ratified. The US embassy says the letter is correspondence between the EU and BiH only and the US is not involved in that correspondence. Therefore it is not suitable for the US embassy to make comments. Dnevni List pg. 2 'The US embassy without comment' – "The EU letter is correspondence between the EU and BiH. The US is not one of the sides in that correspondence and for this reason we believe that it is not appropriate to give a comment on this issue," reads the PR.

Meeting of CRO and BiH delegations	CRHB at 18:00 hrs – President of the Croatian Parliamentary Foreign Policy Board, Zdravko Tomac, and BiH HoR Deputy Chair, Martin Raguz, held a meeting on cooperation between the two parliaments. They discussed pending issues between Croatia and BiH such as the dual citizenship and the Ploce Port. Officials agreed that joint interest of both Croatia and BiH is faster association with the EU, therefore, both countries demand from governments to solve pending issues because only proper consolidation of relations guaranties accomplishment of the goal. Dnevni List pg. 1 and 3 – according to Tomac, the Croatian path to Europe leads via Sarajevo too so it's in the Croatian interest to support BiH efforts in joining the EU and NATO. Two delegations also discussed about the return of refugees, position of Croat people in BiH and Bosniak minority in Croatia, and about the Agreement on Ploce Port. With regards to the latter, the delegations have charged their respective governments to come up with a protocol of solution for the status of the Ploce Port within the next three months without the involvement of international mediators. DL carries Tomac as saying that the two delegations agreed that an article of the Agreement, according to which there are seven members of the Ploce Port's Steering Board, ought to be changed. The new solution should include six members of the Steering Board, three from BiH and three from Croatia without an international representative. Also in Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 4 'Solution to status of Ploce within the next three months'. Avaz pg. 2 'Croatia sticks to their old position on the Ploce Port' – Seada Palavric, a member of the BiH delegation, stated the core of talks was the Ploce Port. She stated that Croatian stuck to their earlier position that the Agreement could not be ratified unless an international mediator was not included.

RS NA session	BHTV1 at 19:00 hrs by Natalija Kostresevic – the RS People's Assembly has been in session in Banja Luka since yesterday. It is expected that RS NA reps tonight will discuss the reform of the defence system in RS and FBiH. Deputies have adopted amendments to the Law on Health Insurance and ordered the government to improve cooperation with the Federation health institutions. RTRS at 19:30 hrs by Gordana Šarović, Milan Trbojević – RS President Dragan Cavic said that a single BiH Army is not possible and defence structures should be in a line with the entity Constitution and the DPA. Added the defence system definitely needed the reform and re-organisation. Nezavisne Novine pg. 2 'Granulic prevented from addressing the RS MP's' – Milenko Granulic, President of the RS Union medical staff, yesterday was not allowed to address RS MP's and take part in the discussion at the RS NA regarding the proposed Law on Medical Insurance. Avaz pg. 8 'Joint BiH army is impossible' – a statement by Cavic that the RS had to actively enter the reform of BiH armed forces, but find a solution to make sure the RS Army survives as a territorial army.

Bush – a list of people threatening regional stability	FTV at 19:30 – a press release issued yesterday by the US embassy in BiH. It reads that the US President, George W. Bush, took steps confronting threat to regional stability. He extended a list of people threatening the regional stability. He revised decision blocking assets and interests of Ratko Mladic, Radovan Karadzic, Hasan Cengic, Milovan Bjelica, Bakir Alispahic, Ljubo Cetic – Rojs, Anto Gotovina, Ante Jelavic, Dragan Lalovic, Momcilo Mandic, Manko Oil Company, Jozo Peric, Puma Security Company, Senad Sahinpasic, Stanko Sopta, Jovica Stanisic, Mirjana Markovic and Ravnogorski Chetnik Movement. Glas Srpske pg. 3 'A list of persona non grata' –Bush on Wednesday signed the Executive Decree on Balkans, which undertakes additional steps against the persons obstructing the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement and the UN SC Resolution on Kosovo. Avaz pg. 1 and 2 – the biggest front-page story in today's issue. Julian Braithwaite, OHR Spokesperson, stated the OHR fully support the move. Oslobodjenje pg. 1 and 3 – the daily carries a list of people and organization whose property has been blocked.
The list of unwanted persons	Nezavisne Novine pg. 3 'A list of persona non grata by mid-June' – NN learnt from diplomatic sources in Sarajevo that a list of persona non grata from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who will be banned from entering the EU states owing to their assistance to war criminals network, will be announced in Brussels prior to the Summit of EU and states from the western Balkan. The Summit will commence in Thessalonike on 14 June. Media speculate that the list will include the names of Ante Jelavic, Alija Delimustafic, Dragan Kalinic, Milenko Vracar and Dragan Spasojevic. OHR Chief Spokesperson, Julian Braithwaite, stated that 'the list was not final and it would not be closed'. "We expect it to be announced in the next few days or maybe weeks."

Ashdown on the list	RTRS at 19:30 hrs – High Representative Paddy Ashdown confirmed there would be very soon a list of 25 persons banned from entering the EU. He could not confirm whether RS Speaker Kalinić was on that list.
HNK government	Vecernji List pg. 1 and 4 by Gorden Knezovic – the daily warns that the new Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (HNK) government has not been formed even after seven months after the elections, adding that parallelisms in the HNK still exist despite the High Representative's decision from October last year which abolishes special regime cantons. Knezovic also notes that the 'technical' government does not seem to have problems with the situation because it is the same parties that are to form the new HNK government. The author further notes that the aforementioned decision by the HR also means the abolishment of the offices of deputy ministers in the Canton and rationalisation/downsizing of the administration, and carries a statement by OHR Mostar Spokesperson Avis Benes. "It's obvious that it's suits them better to keep the offices".

Tihic's initiative for const. changes	Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 1 and 17 – "BiH organized in this way has no chance at all to join the European-Atlantic Integration, thus it is necessary to start with changes of the current Constitution as soon as possible… The Constitution is a big obstacle in the functioning of the state," Sulejman Tihic, Bosniak Presidency member, said. He further added that all institutions and competence, as in any normal state, should be given back to the state. Asked whether it was possible to reach a consensus for the change of the current Constitution within the BiH Presidency, Tihic said that he talked about this issue with a Croat member the BiH Presidency, Dragan Covic, and a Serb member Borislav Paravac. Tihic says that he has Covic's support, while Paravac has not declared himself on this issue yet. Vecernji List pg. 1 and 16 – Tihic's proposal did not get an open support of the High Representative Paddy Ashdown, who warned that constitutional changes were possible only if the agreement within BiH was reached. VL says that Tihic's initiative received the support of the Social Democratic opposition and the Party for BiH. The HDZ also expressed willingness to talk about this issue, while Paravac was against it. Avaz pg. 1 and 8 – Tihic is determined that the Agreement should be ratified despite the latest letter of warning from the EU. Dnevni List pg. 9 'The RS government against changes to the BiH Constitution' – the Republika Srpska (RS) Prime Minister, Dragan Mikerevic, in response to Tihic's statements on the necessity to introduce changes to the BiH Constitution, made the following statement. "Such statements divert focus from important problems in the RS and BiH, such as the economic reforms. The trust in BiH must be built on basis of the Dayton agreement and everything that is against it is a step backwards."

Sarovic on IC's pressure	Glas Srpske pg. 2 'No changes' – Mirko Sarovic, SDS Vice President, yesterday in Zvornik assessed that 'the fabrication of various affairs is aimed at damaging the reputation of the SDS'. During his visit of the Zvornik SDS Board, Sarovic stated that such pressures were reflected through the following cases – him being forced to resign, the affair about Cvjetin Nikic and reports of some media that Dragan Kalinic is on the list of 25 personae non grata. He assessed there was no basis for any changes to the BiH Constitution.
BOSS on OHR	Avaz pg. 12 'BOSS claims that the pressure exerted on Federation MPs scandalous' – yesterday's press conf of the BOSS party. Party reps condemned pressures exerted by the OHR on FBiH Parliament reps. They further think that OHR's obstruction of the adoption of amendments to the Criminal Law is a scandalous aimed against the basic rights of justice and anti-fascism.
SD on US – BiH agreement	Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 17 by Marin Erceg 'Without America BiH would not be until 2009' – "A promise coming from Europe about accession to the EU in 2009 is very tempting for BiH. But, without a resolute role and help from the US, which could be withheld if the Agreement is not ratified, it is questionable whether BiH would hold until then. Even now some officials of the same EU openly say that BiH does not have features of statehood and that without significant reforms BiH will never be ready to join the association of European democratic countries. More of a protectorate than a state, BiH simply, without a resolute threat of force, cannot survive. With unsolved fundamental political and national issues, with the biggest poverty in Europe, a decisive role of a foreign factor and dominating role of the US, the situation would soon get out of hands."

SD on CRO – US agreement	Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 14 and 15 by Ines Sabalic 'If we reject Americans, we open road to Brussels' – "It is very unlikely the new International Criminal Court will come to life, be strong and efficient, but still it does not mean that Croatia should sign what America requests it to sign. If the Court fails, the EU will, although unjustly, accuse the countries of the western Balkans of screwing on the last nail on the coffin of the Court. Although the EU says there will be no sanctions for those who put signatures, but rather that Brussels will be 'sad and disappointed', the signature could make the road to Brussels very, very hard. The dilemma before the Croatian authorities is diabolically difficult – sign it, you will regret, do not sign it, you will regret. America is stronger than ever, the EU is weaker than ever before. America knows what it wants, the EU is guessing."
SB on election promises and reality	Slobodna Bosna pgs. 10,11 and 66 'Tihic promised the construction of Gorazde-Sarajevo highway, Muratovic promised urgent investments of 2.5 billion KM in economy' by Asim Metiljevic – an analysis of the governing political parties' pre-election promises reveals a surprising lack of responsibility toward the public. The latest and drastic example of such discrepancy between the loudly spelled out goals and the current behavior by BiH politicians has been recently offered by the SDA. The party has promoted an idea that the high tariff goods are additionally taxed in order for a development foundation to be established. "Not entering into the quality of the proposal, one should recall that it was exactly the SDA party that advocated the reduction of taxes during the pre-election campaign," Metiljevic concludes.

SB on Nikic's removal	Slobodna Bosna pg. 21 'Nikic had been requesting resignation by Kalinic, who then revenged through his friend at the OHR' by Suzana Andjelic – the appointment of an SDS official from Bijeljina, Cvijetin Nikic, as a member of the BiH Central Bank Steering Board, has been prevented by Ashdown's Deputy, Donald Hays. In a letter of request, sent to Chairman of the BiH Presidency, Borislav Paravac, Hays said he would publish compromising details from Nikic's biography if his appointment had not been withdrawn. "The question is why the OHR, if aware of such details, does not come out in public with them, since the public has the right to know who Cvijetin Nikic really is – a public office holder meaning the leader of the SDS in Bijeljina," wrote Andjelic.
LJILJAN interview with Zgodic	Ljiljan pgs. 18-22 'What does consensus mean to us?'- an interview with Esad Zgodic, Professor at the Sarajevo University's School of Political Sciences and a senior SDP official. Zgodic was the first intellectual in the country who had been scientifically dealing with the basic problem in functioning of this state, which is consensus. "Following 1990 and particularly following the Dayton Agreement signing, the ideological authorities and political leaderships in BiH have been permanently indoctrinating public with the allegedly crucial formula: parity, rotation and consensus, which is allegedly the main pre-condition for the survival of BiH itself," said Zgodic. He however added that the consensus as the supreme method in the decision making process in BiH actually represents a way to block any adoption of decisions and laws.

Military Affairs

OSCE on army downsizing	CRHB at 18:00 hrs – the OSCE says BiH must downsize its armed forces by half. OSCE Spokesperson, Urdur Gunarsdotir, says that downsizing is necessary for the financial maintenance of armed forces since all the budget funds allocated for the financing of the armed forces have been spent already. The OSCE assess BiH can afford 9,500 soldiers maximum. Blic pg. 7 'Armies facing a collapse' – reads that the OSCE offered its assistance 'in order to prevent a financial collapse of the BiH armed forces, which might happen by August this'. Avaz pg. 4 'Soldiers do not get salaries on a regular basis' – the OSCE Mission warned the entity arms were falling back with paying soldiers. According to OSCE Spokesperson, the money allocated for this year was spent on dismissed soldiers.
Sakan on joint army	Nezavisne Novine pg. 7 'Joint army is not a pre-requisite for BiH admission into the PfP' – Vladimir Sakan, President of the RS NA Board for Review and Monitoring of the Internal Affair Bodies, is firm in saying that the joint army is not a pre-requisite for the BiH admission into the Partnership for Peace. He explained the necessary pre-requisites were civilian command under the BiH Presidency and a joint military command.

Economic Affairs

Fatnicko polje	BHTV1 at 19:00 hrs by Gvozden Sarac – the works on the Fatnicko Polje tunnel resumed yesterday. Seventy five per cent of the tunnel has been constructed so far, and it is expected that in July next year the tunnel will be put in work. Works were stopped following an OHR's request after the revision of the RS Elektroprivreda company's work. Acting Director of the RS Elektroprivreda company, Pantelija Dakic, gave a statement on the issue. "Many different stories are going around and I think that government's proposal on the establishment of an independent commissions is the best solution."
Hadzipasic in CBK	FTV at 19:30 hrs by Nadja Ridjic – a Federation government delegation, led by Prime Minister Ahmed Hadzipasic, yesterday visited Central Bosnia Canton. The delegation visited Vitezit, Borac and BNC companies in Vitez, Travnik and Novi Travnik. Hadzipasic stressed the importance of specified-purpose manufacturing and announced its parting from the defence ministry. The parting will help those factories to became more profitable and allow them to contribute development of Central Bosnia Canton.

Hays – Kalinic	RTRS at 19:30 hrs by Vesna Cibic – RS Assembly Speaker, Dragan Kalinić, and Principal Deputy HR, Donald Hays, talked about the RS Elektroprivreda case and disastrous economic situation in the RS and BiH. Hays urged personnel changes in the RS Elektroprivreda and solutions for previously made mistakes in managing. He said "The enterprises in the RS will become museum items if approach to privatisation is not changed," said Hays. "Disastrous behaviour of some individuals and old approach to privatisation contributed to bad results," said Kalinic. A list of 100 companies for privatisation was presented today. Glas Srpske pg. 2 'The Bulldozer in the second phase' – Hays said that the second phase of the BC economic reforms would commence on 4 June. The second phase is to include the reform of 100 laws dealing with economic affairs. "The meeting also discussed the concern on disparity of export and import in Republika Srpska and BiH, as well as the slow privatisation process," said Hays. As for the RS Elektroprivreda, PDHR stated that a team of experts should be put together with a single task – to improve the work of the company.
Hays on commercial chambers	Avaz pg. 15 'Commercial chambers soon in BiH' – PDHR Donald Hays stated the commercial chambers were to be funded from the entity budgets. He stated that the need for such chambers was best reflected in the fact that in the Sarajevo Canton alone there were 20,000 economic crime related court cases.

BH DANI on Vc corridor	BH Dani pgs. 20-30 ‘A dream or reality’ by Senad Pecanin – the magazine dossier on the possible construction of the Budapest-Osijek-Sarajevo-Ploce highway (so-called Vc corridor). “It seems that the initial step has been made. After the BiH-Malaysian joint venture, the ‘Bosmal’ has addressed the authorized state bodies with a proposal for an investment and the construction of the Vc corridor highway. A hope has appeared that BiH would not be the only European country without the highwayanymore,” Pecanin wrote. In an interview for the magazine (pgs. 8-11 ‘Yes, we are ready for the construction of the highway’), ‘Bosmal’ Director, Edin Sabanovic, confirmed that the company had sent a letter of intent to the BiH Council of Ministers with an offer to start designing the the Vc corridor through BiH. “If we get a positive response, we are prepared to, on the basis of 40-year concession, fully finance and implement the construction of a part of the highway going through BiH,” said Sabanovic. The magazine also presents the views on the issue by some of the top BiH and international officials in BiH. While Head of the World Bank Mission to BiH, Joseph Ingram says that there are no conditions for the construction of the highway, BiH CoM Chairman, Adnan Terzic, emphasizes that nothing concrete has been done with regard to this project. He added that he ‘would not like to spend his entire mandate just talking about the highway’. Branko Dokic, BiH Minister for Transport and Communications, FBiH Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic, FBiH Finance Minister Dragan Vrankic, Bosniak member of the Presidency Sulejman Tihic and BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic essentially support the Bosmal initiative.

Police Affairs	
Interview with Colak	Slobodna Dalmacija pg. 19 ‘We are creating police that is above this police’ – an interview with BiH Minister of Security Barisa Colak. Asked whether SIPA employees will have police authorities, Colak says that there are very strong efforts exerted in that direction and that he personally is not against it, however, then it is necessary to harmonize a few laws. “If we make it, then SIPA employees could get the police authorities and investigate all those cases starting from war crimes to crime, corruption and terrorist acts that are under the competence of the state Prosecutor’s Office and the BiH Court.”

Investigation against war time criminals	Slobodna Bosna pgs. 5-9 ‘Ganic, Ljevakovic, Zivalj received on their own bank accounts $60 million from the BiH embassy in Vienna’ by Suzana Mijatovic – last September, the Federation of BiH Prosecution Office requested the Federation Police Administration to conduct a detailed investigation against the carriers of crime during the aggression on BiH. Among them, there are dozens of senior Bosniak officials including Ejup Ganic, a member of the wartime BiH Presidency, Husein Zivalj, former BiH Deputy Foreign Minister and Irfan Ljevakovic, owner of the Sarajevo based ‘Jutarnje Novine’ daily thato were operating with hundreds of million of marks without supervision. An enormous amount of the money ended up on the private accounts. Mijatovic concludes that, despite official request followed by fierce reactions, particularly from the ranks of the SDA, the investigation has never been launched.