

OHR BiH TV News Summary, 18 October 1999

News Headlines

- BiH Presidency departs on official visit to Slovenia
- Two-day conference on democratization and human rights for Southeast Europe in Geneva
- BiH Foreign Minister Prlic visits Russian Foreign Ministry
- Delegation of European Council visits Banja Luka
- General Adams replaces Meigs
- Clark visits [SFOR](#) troops in Tuzla
- Foreign currency reserves of BiH Central Bank 500 million KM – Nicholl
- [World Bank](#) gives \$12 million loan in support of BiH exports
- Tuta extradition to The Hague delayed because of health condition
- Tudjman considers third entity necessary for BiH preservation
- Strong inflation in Yugoslavia
- International news
- Rally of Albanian students in Kosovska Mitrovica postponed
- Three British soldiers injured in fire in old building of TV Pristina
- Albanian Foreign Minister Pascal Mila concludes visit to Kosovo
- Solana takes over function of General Secretary of European Council
- Eighth BiH Federation House of Representatives session expected to conclude on Tuesday, delegates should discuss law on public corporations
- IKRA foundation denotes fifth anniversary

- BiH Liberal Party believes International Community has double standards and should give larger financial support to return of Bosniaks and Croats to RS
- Merger of central political parties necessary – LBO
- SDP regional Board Donje Podrinje addresses request for Petritsch to replace Special Envoy to Srebrenica Jensen
- DSP protests against non-implementation of BiH Federation Government decisions on payment of pensions
- Bihac furniture factory Bina begins work
- Strong flu epidemic to hit BiH – Puvacic
- Sports and weather

News Summary

BiH Presidency departs on official visit to Slovenia

The Main issues of a meeting between the BiH Presidency members and Slovenian President Milan Kucan during the first of a two-day visit to Slovenia were [Dayton Agreement](#) implementation, Ljubljanska Banka debt and preparations of agreements on the protection of interests and legal and property relations. The joint opinion of those present at the meeting is that there is significant progress in the functioning of joint institutions, freedom of movement and security, but economic recuperation and the refugee return process are still far from the desired results. BiH Presidency Chairman Ante Jelavic stated that numerous crucial economic cooperation issues were open at Monday's meeting. The BiH Presidency also met with Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek and discussed resolution of the Ljubljanska Banka debt. BiH Presidency Member Zivko Radisic stated that, not long ago, such a visit was unrealistic, but that it now shows that the BiH Presidency wants to overcome problems and establish BiH as a stabile country.

03:40

Two-day conference on democratization and human rights for Southeast Europe in Geneva

A two-day roundtable on democratization and human rights in Southeast Europe is in progress in Geneva, attended by diplomats from 60 countries. On behalf of the BiH delegation, BiH Federation Vice-president Ejup Ganic, reporting from the conference, stated that he dedicated his speech to refugees. He said that he posed one question to the International Community. "Things cannot continue like this" he said. "(The question is) whether to change the [Dayton Agreement](#) or rescue the [Dayton Agreement](#)?" Ganic believes that Dayton should be rescued, which is possible only with a \$1 billion loan for the reconstruction of refugee houses. He added that, in this way, the prosperity of BiH depends on refugee returns. Ganic stated that he backed this claim with fact that the International Community spends \$5 billion per year on their own expenses, and now it seems just to grant a \$1 billion loan to BiH so it can resolve the basic problem because of which the IC is in BiH. Ganic added that, at the same time, BiH would save the IC money, because [SFOR](#) does not have to stay in BiH forever and have such large expenses if refugees return to their homes.

01:57

General Adams replaces Meigs

New [SFOR](#) Commander in BiH US General Ronald Adams stated in his change of command speech that [SFOR](#) would continue its mission in a robust manner to ensure a secure environment. Adams stated that [SFOR](#) would, in cooperation with other international organizations, dedicate special attention to refugee returns, support cooperation between the entity armies and support a reduction of military potentials. Adams stated that [SFOR](#) strives to undertake decisive actions against attempts to jeopardize implementation of the [Dayton Agreement](#). [NATO](#) SACEUR General Wesley Clark stated at a press conference that in the upcoming period [SFOR](#) troops will be reduced by one third, adding that full withdrawal of [SFOR](#) depends on total progress in BiH.

01:48