OHR BiH TV News Summary, 24 September 1998

OSCE did not publish the election results as announced for today. This time, (anchor's dramatic pause) the computers failed, so it is the question whether the results will be published tomorrow. US Special Envoy Gelbard said that if the results that can be heard about regarding apparent victory by Mr. Radisic are true, than there would be enormous opportunity for the first time in this country to consolidate the state of BiH and make serious progress on the joint institutions as described in the Dayton Agreement. Gelbard also said that should Popalsen be elected for the RS President, he is going to have to respect the DPA regulations, and in the case of non-cooperation, the High Representative will have to act, and he already showed he has great authority.

2:00

BiH CoM held a session, discussing 18 issues. However, the most important issue of the session was the matter of Kosovo. Session chairman Bosic said that instructions the CoM adopted regarding Kosovo refugees are accorded with the OHR and will be published after the text is processed.

2:00

BiH Federation Premier Bicakcic held a speech at the session of European Council in Strasbourg and said that more than 350.000 Kosovars are scattered around mountains and forests, and that more than 10.000 Kosovo refugees are reported to have arrived to FBiH. Bicakcic also said that if necessary the International Community should use force in order to impose the cease of conflicts in Kosovo, and provide humanitarian aid. If opposite, said Bicakcic, it will be very difficult to explain in history books why did the IC let Belgrade regime to freely continue their bloody dance in the Balkans.

Yugoslav Army and Serbian Police continued attacks on Albanian villages in the north of Kosovo, ignoring the UN Security Council Declaration on Kosovo. True, attacks were somewhat calmer in the afternoon in the region of Drenica, but with no indications that reducing attacks means the answer to received warnings.

1:00

NATO Secretary General Solana said that NATO has ordered their commanders to assemble the air forces for possible military actions on Serbian targets in Kosovo, and said that this confirms NATO's determination to act if necessary. 1:30

Mostar Mayor Orucevic signed the decision, which regulates temporary accommodation for 100 Bosniak families in the settlement of Sutina, in order to create condition for Croat returns to municipalities North, Southeast and Stari Grad. The decision is in accordance with the HN Canton plan of return. 2:00

There are but few places where the IC intensively looks at, as they do in Sarajevo, in these past months of the 'year of return,' asking questions on implementation of the Sarajevo declaration. The declaration itself, but also HR's decision on prolongation of the deadline for applying for apartment retrieval, initiated Association of Refugees and DP's of Sarajevo to make their points at today's assembly and to ask specific questions. Association representatives are bitter about increasing number of evictions and low activity regarding return to the RS. The association also demanded the HR to use his influence to open eastern RS as soon as possible in order to initiate refugee return process to this area. 2:00

Exhumation in the Prozor municipality began today. 21 out of

23 Bosniak victims, killed during the conflict with HVO were exhumed.

1:30

"Sloga" Coalition representatives, Plavsic, Dodik and Radisic signed the agreement on co-operation in all levels. Plavsic said that this agreement represents continuance of co-operation so far in this coalition.
1:30