

OHR BiH TV News Summary, 28 October 1998

- Special relations agreement
- Paris Club
- Brcko
- Mostar
- Zenica-Doboj Assembly

After agreement was reached this morning, President of the Federation Ejup Ganic initialled the Special Relations agreement with Croatia on behalf of the Fed. – official signatures are expected in the next month, in a packet with the Ploce-Neum agreement. Details were given of the Joint Council for cooperation established by the agreement: this is to include the Croatian President and the Fed. president and Deputy, and will meet once every three months. Ganic told the camera: 'this agreement is on a level with Washington and Dayton'; BH FM Jadranko Prlic told the camera: 'the resolution of a series of concrete issues has been achieved.' Principal Deputy HR Jacques Klein was paraphrased, saying that the agreement will contribute greatly to the stability of the region. The positive tone of the item by no means changed when the story ended with the news that Croatia and the FRY had been again rejected by the EU – BH was also rejected, but told it can improve, said the presenter.

4:20

At 10 am the BH delegation was received to discuss the BH debt with the Paris Club. Members of the Delegation included Didier Fau of the OHR. Co-Chair of the CoM Boro Bosic told TV BiH that there has been 'a significant improvement' in BH's relations with the Paris Club. Neven Tomic said that BH does not acknowledge any debt after 1992. The signing of the agreement was expected later in the evening. 'The requests of

our negotiating team were accepted' said the presenter.

6:00

The executive committee of Brcko municipality is absolutely non-functioning' said the presenter, describing the situation in Brcko as 'worrying.' The report focused on the complaints of the non-inclusion of the minorities in the administration, made by head of the Brcko SDP Mirsad Djapo, and Deputy Mayors Islamovic and Krndelj – the latter warned that 'those who don't want a genuinely multiethnic administration still dominate.' The presenter described Supervisor Robert Farrand as 'doing everything possible to improve the situation' and concluded by quoting Djapo complaining the 'rhetoric' of BH President Zivko Radisic, who, according to Djapo, had implied that the arbitration decision 'would be to the advantage' of the RS.'

3:00

Today the rotation of the mayors took place – Ivan Prskalo is once again Mayor of Mostar, with Safet Orucevic as his deputy. In his speech, Prskalo stressed the importance of freedom of movement and continuing the return initiatives and also stated- as the presenter several times emphasised – "We shall propose that Mostar become the capital city of the Federation". Safet Orucevic said the city is now no longer the 'black point' of the Federation.

2:00

The constitutional session of the Zenica-Doboj canton chose, in accordance with OHR instructions, the canton's delegates for the Fed. HoP: 9 delegates were chosen – 4 Croats, 4 Bosniaks, and one 'other.'

2:30

The final meeting before the constitutional session of the RS Assembly was held in Banja Luka, and focused on procedural issues and the agenda. The reporter mentioned the initiative to change the procedural language from religious to secular, proposed for the third time by the KCD BH, and the SDP. The

meeting was ongoing at the time the report was made. It was announced that a meeting will take place between HR Westendorp and the heads of clubs of the KCD BH, and the SDP.

3:00

The return of Bosniaks and Croats to Prijedor has 'finally started' with the return of twenty families to a village called Alisici. In two days returns to Kozarac will also begin. Swedish development agency SIDA was credited with reconstruction of housing.

2:30

The foreign bloc was succeeded by a description of the press conference given today by the KCD BH. This, according to the presenter, focused on Brcko, and on issues of return to the RS, and the construction of a multi-ethnic police force.

1:20