OHR BiH TV News Summary, 3 January 2000

News Headlines

- Petritsch extends decision on special taxes on imported goods
- Petritsch decision inevitable and normal – Kurtovic
- Polling stations for Croatian parliamentary elections close at 19:00 on Monday
- 60% turnout for Croatian parliamentary elections – HINA
- World news
- Portuguese Ambassador assumes duties of European Monitoring Mission in BiH
- Establishment of BiH State Border Service and Brcko District are priorities of UN Mission in year 2000 – Alun Roberts
- Registration of citizens for privatization process in RS starts on Monday
- Auction of five state-owned firms begins in Banja Luka Friday
- State institutions acting irresponsibly regarding case of food poisoning in Kakanj – Party of Economic Prosperity (SPP)
- Water level of Sava River in region of Odzak decreases
- Srebrenica still without telephone lines after damages caused by snow
- Memorial to fallen soldiers unveiled in Maglaj
- RS Government delegation departs for Jerusalem for central celebration of 2000 years of Christianity
- Muslim believers mark holiest of nights, 27th night of Ramadan, Leilet-ul-Kadr
- Prices of petrol in BiH Federation rise 10% from 1 January 2000
- Arbitration decision most important event for Brcko in

year 1999
- Lack of funds slows reconstruction of housing in Tuzla
- Sports
- Weather
- According to SDP spokesperson, SDP-HSLS Coalition leads in all 10 electoral units based on information from State Commission at 22:00
- According to current 10-20% of counted ballots, SDP and HSLS lead by 30-60%

News Summary

Petritsch extends decision on special taxes on imported goods

High Representative Wolfgang Petritsch decided on 30 December 1999 to extend the BiH Council of Ministers decision on introducing special taxes on some imported goods. The decision will be implemented in the year 2000 in the same manner as in 1999 and is effective immediately in both BiH entities.

00:20

Petritsch decision inevitable and normal – Kurtovic

Commenting on the decision of the High Representative regarding special taxes on goods imported to BiH, BiH Minister of External Trade and Economic Relations Mirsad Kurtovic stated that this measure was inevitable and necessary. Kurtovic stressed that such decisions are the reason a High Representative is still needed in BiH. The special taxes are essential because they protect and develop production in BiH.

02:25

Polling stations for Croatian parliamentary elections close at 19:00 on Monday

All polling stations for the Croatian parliamentary elections closed on Monday at 19:00. Citizens were to choose members of the Parliamentary House of Representatives from a record-

breaking 4,006 candidates. Chairman of the State Election Commission Marijan Ramuscak stated that the elections passed without major incident or objection. The Independent Civilian Association for Monitoring Elections (GONG) reported that election boards at some polling stations instructed voting members of national minorities to vote only for candidates on the list of national minorities. Over one thousand international monitors supervised the elections, which pays tribute to the importance the International Community has placed on the Croatian parliamentary elections.

03:45