OHR BiH TV News Summary, 30 March 1999

Headlines

- Remains of the late Vice Minister Leutar escorted from Sarajevo to Mostar.
- Both houses of the BiH Parliament Assembly held commemorative sessions.
- After negotiations in Belgrade, Russian Premier Primakov said there is some progress.
- Yeltsin said Russia would not allow to be pulled into the Kosovo conflict.
- Serbian forces attacked Pristina and central Kosovo, where about 50.000 Albanians are in refuge.
- The KLA assessed Yugoslav forces killed thousand civilians.
- Refugee crisis worsened as Yugoslavia closed the border toward Albania.
- European Commission granted Euro 10 million for Kosovar refugees

Funeral of the late Interior Vice Minister Jozo Leutar will be held in Mostar tomorrow. Body of the late Jozo Leutar was escorted from Sarajevo to Mostar today. Tomorrow is the Day of Grief in Herceg-Bosna canton. Serb delegates were not present at the commemorative session of the Parliament Houses. 3:00

Russian Premier Primakov, who met With FRY President Milosevic today, said a certain progress was achieved, but did not give any details. CNN published that after the meeting with Primakov, Milosevic offered the truce and withdrawal of his forces. At the regular <u>NATO</u> briefing in Brussels, it was said that Yugoslav President Milosevic is attempting to make refugee invasion on surrounding countries and thus shake their stability. Military representative, UK RAF Commodore Wilby said that from now on, the <u>NATO</u> campaign is going to be intensified 24 hours a day, and added that Yugoslav army infrastructures and units will be hit. UK Minister of Defence, Robertson refuted statements of RTS about downing of two <u>NATO</u> aircraft. 6:00

According to Montenegrin Red Cross Society, about 34.000 refugees arrived to Montenegro until five days ago, and in the past 48 hours, additional 25.000-30.000 Kosovar refugees. European Commission granted Euro 10 million for assistance to Kosovar refugees. <u>UNHCR</u> spokesperson in Geneva, Janovski said that there are about 100.000 people who crossed the border toward Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro. 3:00

Refugees from Sandzak are still arriving to Sarajevo Railway Station plateau. RTV BiH made interviews with refugees who said that people are leaving their houses due to fear of war and mobilisation. Almost 98% of them found accommodation at their friends or relatives in Sarajevo. 2:00

The key issue of the US Administration at the moment is will <u>NATO</u> be able to complete its mission in Kosovo before Milosevic completes his. Although the White House do not want to admit, it is obvious that new solutions for Kosovo have to be found, opposite previous desires that Milosevic will give in after first strikes, RTV BiH reporter from Washington said. 1:30

Another anti-<u>NATO</u> meeting was held today in Bijeljina. Participants of the meeting severely condemned "<u>NATO</u> aggression over Federal republic of Yugoslavia." Serb Radical Party was not participating the protest, and said "<u>NATO</u> in cooperation with the RS MUP wishes to incite bloody incidents and blame the Radical Party for it." 25 Bosniak families returned to the village of Gracanica, Prozor-Rama municipality. 1:30

The three Srebrenica citizens, Hasic, Husic and Harbas, who were recently allocated from Bijeljina to Tuzla prison, are on the fourth day of hunger strike in Tuzla Prison. They have no complaints on prison authorities, but demand faster court procedure, and more weekends leaves, simultaneously reminding on farce which was conducted in the Bijeljina court. 1:30

After the meeting of Parliament parties, RS replaced President Poplasen's Cabinet made an announcement and said that the SDS, Radicals, and the Serb Coalition for the RS are insisting on following of the Assembly decisions from March 7. Poplasen thus says that "the "Sloga" Coalition does not recognise these decisions, and Party of Independent Social Democrats and Dodik, by refusing these decisions, are subordinating the RS and its authorities to decisions of occupation forces, represented by Carlos Westendorp, Robert Barry and others." 1:30

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