OHR BiH TV News Summary, 30 September 1998

CoM Co-chairman Silajdzic commented on recent media talks that BiH Presidency President Izetbegovic might leave his post before his mandate expires and leave it to Silajdzic. Silajdzic refuted those writings in the press and said that those stories are promoted by those who would not wish this to happen.

1:30

BiH Presidency President Izetbegovic reacted to recent media publishing about the AID and Herenda case. Izetbegovic said he received a letter in the late March from the three convicted from the Herenda case. The convicted in this case, Karaplija, Muran and Pezo admitted their guild in the act of kidnapping and attempt of murder and said they were ordered to do this, or that AID head, Ademovic knew about it. Izetbegovic said he trusted Ademovic, due to his innocence in the court sentence, and since he refuted all possible connections with this case, after being presented the letter. 2:00

OHR determined the top amount for military booklets in the Federation to be 7 billion DEM, while BiH Federation estimated it to be about 9 billion DEM. The main reason for this is artificial equalising of number of HVO and BiH Army soldiers. 1:00

Sir Martin Garrod finished his mandate of OHR regional head in Mostar. Garrod met with BiH Presidency President Izetbegovic and Federation President Ganic in his farewell visit, discussing the issues of what was done on the matter of reuniting Mostar. 0:30 OHR spokesman in Mostar, Riley said that Serb returns to Rastani was announced to the West Municipality governor, and added that Croat authorities did nothing to remove barricades in Rastani. Riley also said that Croat media covered Saturday events unprofessionally and inaccurately. OSCE regional head Foley also expressed his disappointment with inaccurate reporting from Rastani. 1:30

Four days ago, special <u>SFOR</u> troops arrested Bosnian Serb war crimes indictee, Stevan Todorovic, also known as "Steva Monstrum" (Steva the Monster). Todorovic today refused to plead for crimes as indicted by the Hague Tribunal, claiming he was beaten during the arrest. Todorovic is indicted for beating, torture and sexual harassment of war prisoners. 1:30

As for Serbian ensuring that actions in Kosovo are finished, they failed to convince the world. <u>NATO</u> satellites, TV images and monitors from the sites speak opposite, which keeps <u>NATO</u> members warmed up for the final conflict with Milosevic. Brussels announced that <u>NATO</u> is finishing preparations for air raids in Kosovo. Germany also decided to make available for <u>NATO</u> 14 air fighters of "Tornado" type. A <u>NATO</u> official said that US cruising rockets are also ready for strikes. 2:00

Still current Premier of the RS, Milorad Dodik expects parliamentary crisis in the RS should the winning Radicals line does not show the will to co-operate. Newly elected BiH Presidency member from the RS, Radisic said for Banja Luka daily Nezavisne Novine that BiH will be recognised by the RS and that democratic changes within the RS are limited by initiating the same democratic changes throughout BiH. 2:00