OHR BiH TV News Summary, 4 November 1998

The new Federation House of Representatives with the two-year mandate was constituted today. Chairman of the HoR Enver Kreso (of the KCD BiH) was re-appointed to the post. Mariofil Ljubicic of the HDZ was elected Deputy Chairman, and Mile Kudic (of the HDZ) was re-elected Secretary of the HoR, despite the opposition parties' request that their candidate be elected to the post (pursuant to the number of opposition-party delegates in the HoR). Following Kudic's election, the SDP left the session. RS Parliament (RSNA) was also inaugurated today. The inaugural session ended with the new President Nikola Poplasen, his Deputy Mirko Sarovic and Zivko Radisic's solemn oath. Petar Djokic was re-elected to the post of the Parliament Speaker, and Jovan Mitrovic of the SNS was named his Deputy. According to the protocol, the outgoing President Plavsic addressed the Assembly, as well as her successor, Poplasen. The new RS President reiterated that he would "respect the interests of the BH Federation, support the development of the joint organs in BiH, and provide support for consistent implementation of the DPA". Poplasen used the opportunity to reiterate that Brcko should remain in the RS, or the credibility of the countries co-signatories of the DPA might be brought into question. The refugee return bloc opened with a report on the building of a transit center for (Bosniak) returnees near Kalesija, in the vicinity of the IEBL. The project is financed by the Austrian and the Swiss governments. Some fifty refugee families, according to the Mayor of Kalesija, hope that they would eventually return home. Followed a report on the visit of 40 (Bosnian) Serb refugees, now living in the FRY, to their pre-war houses in Bugojno (the visit was organised by the OHR and UNHCR). Mayor of Bugojno, Dzevad Mlaco, addressed the refugees, reiterating

that the political climate in the municipality, with regard to their return, was favourable. TV BiH concluded the report with a vox populi – the Bugojno visitors' emotionally reiterated their wish to return. International Supervisor for Brcko, Robert Farrand, issued two orders with an immediate effect to the town's administration. The first demanded that the return of non-Bosniaks to their pre-war homes be accelerated. The order also said that the municipal administration would set a 30-day deadline during which the houses now occupied by Serbs should be emptied. The second order relates to unsolved cases of illegal usage of abandoned apartments and property. The order obliges the Brcko administration to produce a list of multiple occupancies. Two houses of Bosniak returnees in the municipality of Stolac were mined in the past two days, claims the letter sent by Kemal Isakovic, President of the Municipal Council to the HR. The incident was sharply condemned by the international organisations at their regular press briefing in Mostar. Kosovo – TV BiH contrasted the news of NATO's decision to withdraw some troops from Great Britain with the continuation of conflicts in the troubled province continue (as reported by TV BiH's correspondent from Pristina). Following the international news bloc, TV BiH carried the Party for Bosnia's reaction to the revision of textbooks. The party expressed support for the "education based on science" and opposed "putting masks on history" and the "organisation of collective amnesia, which opens the door to a new aggression and definite vanishing of Bosnia." "The proposal given by the Sarajevo Working Group for Education that parts of some textbooks should be changed is under the jurisdiction of experts… Sarajevo is willing to become a model of education for the entire Bosnia, but it cannot accept… the masking of truth about the aggression or demands at amnesty for war crimes indictees", TV BiH paid full attention to the party's stand with regard to the proposed revision.