OHR BiH TV News Summary, 5 January 2000

News Headlines

- Cornerstone for construction of Sarajevo-Zenica highway set
- Croatian HDZ Main Board supports Granic candidature for presidential elections
- All presidential candidates must submit applications before midnight with 10,000 signatures
- Mesic receives largest number of signatures for presidential candidacy
- Separovic submit presidential candidacy with 15,000 signatures
- Insufficient number of signatures eliminates certain number of candidates from presidential elections
- Certain EU diplomats believe time between parliamentary and presidential elections could slow expressions of European support to new Croatian Government
- Petritsch expresses hope that new Croatian leadership will assume responsibilities towards Dayton Agreement
- Jelavic congratulates SDP-HSLS Coalition
- Radisic congratulates opposition on election victory
- Ganic believes election results are proof that democracy is moving forward in Croatia
- Bicakcic expects normalization of relations with Croatia and emphasizes that BiH and Croatia did not have normal relations
- SFOR might perform military operation in Bocinja – Commander SFOR Nordic-Polish brigade
- BiH Federation Army Second Corps begins destroying weapons in demilitarization of Brcko District
- US SFOR soldier killed by firearm
- World news

- BiH Federation Ministry of Agriculture plans to open 6,000 new working positions in 2000
- Additional import taxes currently only way of protecting domestic production – Minister Smajic
- Domi on preferential voting in BiH
- EC in BiH finds out that one company tries to deceive other companies by using falsified EC documents
- SDP says results of Croatian elections show defeat of populist and nationalistic ideas
- GDS believes unresolved social-economic issues will influence citizen initiative at elections, current authorities do not offer solutions
- It is important that change of authority in Croatia not poorly influence position of Croats in BiH – HKDU
- Law on rights of former political prisoners discriminatory – DNZ
- BiH and BiH Federation officials address Christmas greetings to Orthodox Church Metropolitan Dabrobosanski Nikolaj and believers
- Jelavic, Zigic and SDA Board for south-western Bosnia address Bajram greetings to Reis-ul-Ulema Mustafa Efendija Ceric
- Tuzla Cantonal Assembly holds session
- Hajric meets with BiH Federation Ombudsmen
- Heads of Sanski Most and Prijedor sign protocol on improvement of refugee return process
- Sports
- Weather
- Luzanski visits Zepce, promises locals that border issue will be resolved before elections
- Tuzla Demobilized Soldiers Union demands resolution of their problems in letter addressed to Bicakcic and Ganic
- RS Socialist Party demands government immediately create civic program for year 2000
- SRS does not expect great changes in Croatian position on Serb refugees following election results
- IC holds press conference in Mostar

- Tuzla Cantonal Assembly holds session to discuss finances

News Summary Jelavic congratulates SDP-HSLS Coalition

BiH Presidency Chairman Ante Jelavic congratulated SDP President Ivica Racan and HSLS President Drazen Budisa on their election victory. In his letter of congratulations, he expressed hope that the new authorities will continue successful cooperation based on previous agreements between Croatia, BiH and the BiH Federation, especially in responsibility for the protection of the constitutional position of Croats in BiH as one of three sovereign, equal and constitutional people.

00:30

Radisic congratulates opposition on election victory

BiH Presidency Member and SPRS President Zivko Radisic congratulated the SDP-HSLS Coalition on its election victory. Radisic emphasized that this victory represents a tremendous chance to strengthen cooperation at all levels of authority in the interest of both countries and peoples.

00:18

SFOR might perform military operation in Bocinja – Commander SFOR Nordic-Polish brigade

According to a statement made by Commander of the SFOR Nordic-Polish Brigade Kiel Grant Hagen for Oslobodjenje, SFOR might perform a military operation with 1,000 soldiers in the village of Bocinja. According to SFOR, the reason for the operation is the attack on General Grant Hagen by naturalized BiH citizen Omar Bedaovi during his visit to this village with one Serb refugee.

00:30

Domi on preferential voting in BiH

OSCE spokesperson Tanya Domi confirmed that preferential voting for BiH Presidency members, as foreseen by the draft Permanent Election Law, is in complete accordance with the BiH Constitution and is the best system for BiH. According to Domi, candidates would be encouraged to choose moderate programs so that they can attract other voters. Domi added that this way of voting would return power to the voters.

00:24

It is important that change of authority in Croatia not poorly influence position of Croats in BiH – HKDU

It is very important to the Croat Demo-Christians that the change of authority in Croatia not influence the position of Croats in BiH poorly. The HKDU believes that the election results in Croatia should not be troublesome, but seen as a stronger boost for establishing a Croat republic within BiH.

00:18

Hajric meets with BiH Federation Ombudsmen

President of the Steering Board for Implementation of the Sarajevo Declaration Mirza Hajric met with the BiH Federation Ombudsmen and Sarajevo Cantonal Government Ministers Vildana Kustura and Omer Vatric on Wednesday. The importance of respecting human rights during the process of return to Sarajevo and BiH was also emphasized. They also considered the latest BiH Federation Ombudsmen report on returns to Sarajevo. Hajric supported the work of the Government and BiH Federation Ombudsmen in realizing the refugee return process and announced the upcoming return of over 50,000 refugees from eastern Bosnia, who currently reside in Sarajevo.