

OHR Local News Issues, 17 Aug 1997

Sarajevo – Robert Gelbard, American Peace Mediator for BiH is expected for the second time in the Balkans Together with the Bosnian officials he is going to conduct inventory of the measure fulfilment they agreed upon, during his last visit. Agencies did not inform which town is his first destination.

1'30"

Although it was meant to be hidden from the public eyes, unusual movements of NATO troops in the mountains around Sarajevo last week in the night from Wednesday to Thursday, were confirmed to be a general training for arresting of the war criminals indicted in BiH. American, French and British soldiers were exercising the apprehension of Radovan Karadzic, informs London Sunday Times citing Sarajevo military sources. (NATO troops were shown in action)

2'00"

Haris Silajdzic received representatives of Srebrenica women who live in the Sarajevo suburb Vogosca. He promised as the state representative in the International Commission for missing persons to initiate an extra effort in tracing missing persons as well as enabling an access to the sites of the mass executions.

1'30"

Olovo – Serb entity police arrested five Bosniaks in the village Iscerici near Olovo and took them in an unknown direction, learns BiH Press in the community police station. Around 18 Bosniaks including children and women from the village Hajdarevici went to Iscerici where some of them were detained and three private vehicle were taken from them.

1'30"

Stolac – Croatian extremists caused a serious incident yesterday at the site where once a mosque was standing in Stolac. Two buses with Bosniaks travelling in them were stoned, a man was hurt and three people including a girl and a boy were beaten up. Some workers repairing homes as well as some policemen who should have started to work in the joint police, were blocked in their activities. The Presidency of the Community Stolac together with the SDA Executive Council of Stolac sent an open letter to the relevant BiH and international institutions demanding that the culprits be found and punished.

Rasim Kadic, FBiH Minister for refugees accused local authorities for these incidents, describing them as the most un-cooperative in the country, but he accused IPTF and [SFOR](#) who should have earlier established the joint police powers in this region.

2'30"

Bugojno – Unknown men activated explosives in three family houses in the village Curcica Lug, near Bugojno. Federal Ministry for Interior Affairs strongly condemns such obstructions against refugee return.

1'30"

Jajce – Follows a lengthy story on the refugee return in the village Kruscica in municipality Jajce where 99 family heads have come back to their homes. They marked a start of returning other 600 Bosniak families in this region. In a difficult financial situation they try to repair their houses and start living on their soil.

2'30"

Sarajevo – Relating to the accumulated dissatisfaction of the war invalids caused by their difficult material and social status, BiH Trade Union requested from the BiH Government to fulfil invalids demands: pay out the behind lagging disability pensions, harmonise their amounts according to the law, enable

them easier purchasing of the invalid devices and prevent the law to throw them out of the apartments they received during the war.

2'00"

Summary SRT TV News

Pale – Speaker of the RS National Assembly Dragan Kalinic made a statement to the effect that “the decision of the RS Constitutional Court brought by a democratic procedure has put to end a constitutional crisis in the RS, but a political crisis will continue”. Kalinic contended that the other side in the dispute and the international community having exerted tremendous pressure, hoped that the matter would not be resolved in a legal but political manner. He strongly criticised the international community for interfering into RS internal legislative matters and stressed that it was good that the court made a decision which would be recognized by both sides in the dispute. According to Kalinic, a state of legality has won the battle.

Unfortunately, a part of the international community will continue to support Biljana Plavsic in this dispute, he went on, posing a question why should Ms Plavsic should need international support if she had truly observed the Constitution as she declared. The Speaker of the RS National Assembly has reminded of the fact that in decisions of a constitutional court in western countries are obligatory for state president or monarchs as well. He announced that the RS Assembly would continue its work to make up for the time lost adding that there were no legal reasons for the RS President not to attend assembly's sessions.

3'50"

Banja Luka – SRNA informed that early this morning special police forces of the RS President Biljana Plavsic occupied the premises of the Central Security Service.

The same report informed that [SFOR](#) troops had blocked the

Central Security building in the afternoon.and that SFOR and IPTF representatives had been mediating between special police troops inside the building and Superintendent of the Security Centre Djuro Gulic and his associates.

The media carried a report from its Banja Luka correspondent who depicted the situation on the ground. The correspondent informed that 8 SFOR APCs blocked the building and that SFOR sniper shooters were positioned on the top of the building. The Head of the OHR office reportedly told the press that negotiations were in progress, adding that SFOR troops were there to protect IPTF representatives who had been investigating possible violation of human rights, (The footage showed SFOR troops and APC vehicles).

The RS Interior issued the following statement on this event:" Early this morning, a group of former members of the RS Interior Ministry under command of a suspended policeman Dragan Lukac forcefully occupied the premises of the Central Security Service..This forceful entry represent a serious violation of the constitutional order and has endangered the work of this ministry. The statement further maintained that the group had broken into some of offices and demolished inventory in the building. In cooperation with SFOR and IPTF representatives, the Interior Ministry has been actively engaged in restoration of order in the Centre, concluded the statement.

5'50"