

# OHR Local News Issues, 2 June 1997

**Sarajevo** – Alija Izetbegovic, Presidency President sent his congratulations to the newly appointed High Representative, Carlos Westendorp. Taking over this position, you are taking on a very challenging and responsible job from which every BiH citizen has great expectations, Izetbegovic wrote. We also confirm our readiness to fulfil obligations towards the DPA and co-operation with you and your Office, he added.

1'30"

**Sanski Most** – Today on the fifth day of the expert team work on the exhumation of mass and individual graves in Sanski Most, 14 bodies of Bosniaks killed by Serb extremists – all from the family Alibegovic, were exhumed. They were killed in August 1992.

2'30"

**Mostar** – The agreement on the establishing of six city municipalities, as the Dayton Accord foresees, was finally achieved in Mostar, today. This was announced by Ivan Prskalo, Mostar Mayor and Safet Orucevic, his Deputy after a meeting with Sir Martin Garrod in the Regional OHR. I presume that such an Agreement can defend the interests of the Croatian as well as Bosniak people and fulfil the provisions of the Dayton Accord, Prskalo said. Follows explanation on the division of authority in the municipalities.

3'00

**Sarajevo** – Haris Silajdzic, CoM Co-Chair received Bernard Miyet, UN Under-Secretary for Peace Keeping Operations and Kai Eide, Head of UNMIBH. Estimating the meeting in Sintra as a reflection of the new decisiveness of the International Community, especially of the American Government, to implement DPA in full, Silajdzic welcomed the principle according to

which sanctions would be imposed on those who did not co-operate and financial support for those who did. He insisted on decisive action in this regard.

1'30"

Vladimir Soljic, BiH Federation President also received Bernard Miyet. Their talks focused on the work and establishing of the police powers in Federation, concrete co-operation with the Hague Tribunal and return of refugees to their homes.

1'00"

**Banja Luka** -The delivering of war crime indicted persons to the Hague Tribunal was the key topic of talks held between Madeleine Albright and Biljana Plavsic, RS President, Nicolas Burns, US State Department Spokesman said after the meeting. Any further non co-operation with the provisions of DPA further distances RS from the possibility of receiving financial assistance, he added.

A group of dissatisfied citizens with placards waited for Albright to inform her of the unsolved questions between RS and Croatia, which make their lives difficult.

2'30"

Opening the bridge in Brcko over the River Sava, Madeleine Albright delivered the same message as in B.Luka, Haris Silajdzic said on that occasion – maximum help will be received by those who support the provisions of the Dayton Accords and Supervisor Farrand in implementing his task in Bosnia. Those who attempt to obstruct, will get sanctions. Boro Bosic assessed that this bridge was a place of suffering in both wars, let us hope that it never will be again.

1'30'

The only Croatian comment on Madeleine Albright's visit to Croatia came from Miomir Zuzul, Croatian Ambassador. In an attempt to defend the DPA and its own face as the most

powerful country in the world, the US chose Croatia as a victim, he assessed and added that it would be impossible to fulfil US demands to allow the return of Serbs who fled from Croatia to BiH and FRY, since their return would again destabilise Croatia.

1'30"

## Summary SRT News

**Banja Luka** – The RS President, Plavsic talked with the UK Ambassador to Sarajevo, Charles Crawford about the declaration of the Council for implementation of the DPA which was adopted at the session in Sintra, as well as about the work of the common institutions and the obstructions committed by both sides.

3:00

**Pale** – The RS President in the BiH Presidency, Krajisnik met the US Embassy Chargé d’Affaires, Parmley, and talked about the implementation of the DPA, especially the issues which were discussed with the US State Secretary Albright yesterday [return of refugees, freedom of movement, war criminals, etc.].

3:00

**Pale** – session of the Republic Elections Commission – Members of the Commission discussed the process of registration of voters and concluded that voters’ response is not as expected. Therefore they sent an appeal to all citizens of voting age to fulfil their obligation and register. The Commission started an initiative at PEC for extension of the registration period in order to enable everybody to register. The Republic Elections Commission is satisfied with the process of registration and its media coverage in FRY.

3:00

**Banja Luka** – OSCE seminar for monitors and voters’ registration officials – On request of Ambassador Frowick,

OSCE closed down the voters' registration offices today due to the Seminar. The aim of the Seminar is to acquaint the representatives of the registration offices with the additional changes of the rules of registration. These changes should increase the number of voters being registered, the OSCE representative for Banja Luka said, adding that about 1 million voters from the RS and Federation have been registered so far.

3:00

### **Flash news:**

- **Luxembourg** – After the meeting of members of EU, the newly appointed HR for BiH, Carlos Westendorp said that he has taken over “a huge responsibility, but I hope that, with the help of the international community which will have to give priority to the peace process in the Balkans, we will be able to reach our goal.”
- The Dutch Foreign Minister is in favour of keeping the NATO troops in the Balkans. He said to Dutch press that a certain military vacuum could be created and a new war started by the Muslims if the NATO simply pulls out in one year's time.
- At the Berlin Free University, the US Professor John Lamp said in his speech that the Serbs were the majority in the former BiH until the World War II, when the NDH [Independent State of Croatia] committed genocide against them.
- Representatives of the Serb World Committee, the Fund for the Truth About the Serbs, the Serb and German Committee for Protection of Human Rights, and the Serb Documentation Centre sent a request to the UN to condemn and do something with regard to kidnapping of the Director of the Serb Parliament Information Centre, Vojin Dabic, who was arrested on May 28 in Vukovar. Dabic is on the verge of a physical and mental breakdown caused by drugs, electric shocks and other forms of

torture.

5:00

**Banja Luka** – The High Court in Banja Luka continued the proceedings against Alija Izetbegovic, who was accused of committing severe war crimes against civilians and POW's. 66 witnesses have testified so far.

2:00

### **World news:**

**Mostar** – Muslims refused to consider the request of Bosnian Croats to open polling stations in the Federation territory controlled by the Bosnian Croats on the day of Croatian elections on June 15. The Croats explained that they wanted to vote for the joint and the only president of all Croats. However, it is more than certain that Muslim authorities will not be able to do anything since neither the joint police nor administration have been established yet.

2:00