OHR Local News Issues, 23 February 1997

Nine Bosniak houses were blown up in the village Memici, south of Dugi Dio, this morning. There were no injuries since the village had not yet been settled. It was not planned to return refugees there in these days, reads a Statement issued by the multi-national division North. SFOR and IPTF will investigate the case.
1’00”

The Coalition for Return ended its two day conference in Tuzla by summing up the Working Groups reports, appointing the co-ordinators for the future period of time and announcing that the next big meeting will be held in May or June. The conference, entitled, “We want to go home”, was supported by Ambassador Michael Steiner. Coalition for Return has planned closer co-operation with all authorities from local to state level, as well as political parties, demanding the suspension of all those who sabotage refugees return.
2’30”

An unidentified person threw tear gas in front of a residential block in the street Bulevar revolucije in Mostar. The incident passed without any consequences, reads a Statement of the Public Security Service.
0’30”

Haris Silajdzic, BiH CoM Co-Chair, met with the delegation of German Ministers for Interior Affairs. They discussed return of the BiH citizens from Germany to their homes. Silajdzic pointed out the contribution which Germany made in accepting, accommodating and supporting our refugees since the war started covering more than 15,0 billion DM costs.
1’30”

Celebrations are under way in Sarajevo surrounding communities which were a year ago in February reintegrated into Federation. The humanitarian organizations: CRS, UNHCR, Austrian Government and Equilibre which helped very much in the reconstruction of reintegrated communities and normalization of citizens lives, were awarded with medallions of gratitude at today's celebration in Vogosca.
2'00"

The families of 737 men who disappeared in June 1992 in Bijeli Potok, municipality Zvornik, are still desperately trying to find out their nearest relatives living or dead. (Follows a lengthy report when and how they were taken away, the names of persons who know what happened,etc.)
2'30"

The World Bank programs and loans for helping demobilized soldiers have not, until now, attracted many of those for whom they were meant. Asked about their plans relating to the program of "the local initiative", due to start in March, invalids and soldiers with the "saving books" were very suspicious about the possibility of really receiving such loans, and being able to start any production on their own and earn money to be able to return such a loan.
2'30"

Tesanj municipality carried out a fourth project of removal of unexploded devices in the region. Besides 9.800 others, they succeeded in dismantling 16 air bombs.
1'00"

At the recent meeting held in Brussels on succession among the countries of ex Yugoslavia, the only successful achievement there was an agreement among BiH delegation. The representatives of the RS and Federation agreed that the only legal delegation at such meetings will be BiH delegation.
1'30"

Carl Bildt went to Stockholm this weekend to spend time with his family, but he was suddenly taken to the hospital. Bosnia is these days without Carl Bildt, announced a Hospital Spokesperson saying that the HR is suffering from “a simple infection”.
0’30”

Summary SRT News

Using the example of the September elections in Muslim-Croat Federation and RS, the OSCE prepared and proposed new rules and regulations for the forthcoming local elections. Changes of the rules were specifically made because of the refugees and displaced persons. Therefore, if a refugee’s name is in the 1991 census, he/she can vote for a town or the entity he/she lives or wants to live in future. Those who are refugees abroad can vote for a municipality they intend to return. ‘Since we have experienced speculations with ballots by the other side, we shouldn’t allow any political party from the Federation to take part in the local election in the RS before it is registered by the RS Supreme Court, which in charge of these issues.’, SRT journalist commented.
3:00
Eastern Slavonia – since there will not be any changes of the Erdut Agreement, the Serbs from this area must think twice and choose their best representatives for the elections scheduled for April 15. The most famous politician in Croatia US, Ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith, said that the local elections in Croatia could be postponed if Croat authorities do not guarantee safety for the Serb minority in Eastern Slavonia, i.e. if the Serbs in Croatia do not get Croatian citizenship by April 15. He accused Croatia of failing because of non-support to the Serbs who wish to stay there.
3:00

World News:

- Mostar – Muslim Mostar authorities asked IPTF to

proclaim a state of emergency, because they are not satisfied with the investigation which was conducted with regard to the incident which happened two days ago, when the SFOR APC was hit by an anti-tank grenade, Muslim media reported.

- HR Bildt was transferred to a Stockholm hospital yesterday. According to reports, his health condition is stable today, Swedish media reported. Bildt collapsed in his house in Stockholm. He is under medical examination right now.

2:00