

# OHR Local News Issues, 4 May 1997

**Gradina** – Orthodox, Jewish, and Gypsy priests served a holy mass for the anniversary of a massacre of Serbs in Jasenovac in the World War II. Out of 700000 victims killed by ustashas' sword, 365000 were killed in this town. The RS leadership [Plavsic excluded] attended the holy mass. After the mass, Krajisnik held a speech saying that 'we are here to remind the world that we can forgive but not forget. We also have to remember that they were killing us, burning our books, banning us from using Cyrillic because they wanted to exterminate us as a nation.' Krajisnik also mentioned that all Serbs in the Balkans must live together in order to strengthen the foundations of their country and provide a better future for generations to come.

3:00

RS President of the BiH Presidency, Krajisnik commenting on a postponement of the Donors' conference, said that one part of the international community is trying to gain a certain benefit in order to solve the problem of BiH. The BiH Federation is in the better position because it received a significant amount of aid last year and it doesn't particularly care about the Conference. 'We showed our good will, and our CoM representatives accepted the disputable QSP Laws, whereas the Muslim side refused it and it wasn't punished. The Muslim side is now going in a circle intending to annul already achieved results of the DPA in order to gain the establishment of a unitary BiH'. Krajisnik expressed his hopes that the international community has enough will and resources to invest in BiH.

2:00

World media gave their comments on HR Bildt's statement that 'BiH peace is still fragile and a danger of breaking it is a

reality.' Bildt reminded that IPTF presence or establishment of new political structures are not enough to preserve the peace in BiH, but only with further NATO engagement, DPA agency reported. The west shouldn't allow any of the three groups to become dominant, especially not the Muslim one, because it is not in accordance with the DPA. Independent Sarajevo papers reported that coexistence is not possible anymore. Muslim President Izetbegovic founded a Senate which consists of 10 members charged with preparing different maps for the exchange of territories with the aim of establishing a Muslim state which would uphold a larger area than it is now under the Muslim army.

German journalist and novelist Schneider, in the introduction of the book 'German propaganda and War in Balkans', said that an image which was created by the German media has nothing to do with reality. According to Schneider, self-shelling of Muslims at the market place in Sarajevo represents a turning point of the civil war in BiH – Serbs who were in conflict with the world at the political level, also lost the battle militarily, which resulted with NATO bombing and the arrival of US troops who got involved in Europe for the first time since the World War II.

5:00

The international community is neglecting the RS with regard to investments in the RS economy. Therefore, the RS is forced to establish bilateral contracts with various European countries such as Italy, a delegation from where visited Banja Luka to discuss this issue and re-establish economic ties from before the war.

2:00