OHR RTRS News Summary, 13 January 2000

News Headlines

- Petritsch imposes law on BiH Border Service
- No official reaction to Petritsch decision to impose BiH Border Service
- RS Government supports law on BiH border service – Dodik
- BiH Parliament House of Representatives Chairman Banjac and House of Peoples Co-chairman Ljubicic meet with European Council envoys in Sarajevo
- SPRS does not oppose law on BiH border service – SPRS member Cudic
- SRS holds press conference
- Djokic schedules continuation of Ninth RS National Assembly session for 25 January
- Djokic send Orthodox New Year's greetings to RS citizens
- Dodik organizes reception for journalists on occasion of New Year
- Petritsch issues decision clarifying the RS Law on Implementation of the Decisions of the CRPC
- Association for Return of Serbs to Sarajevo receives office
- IMC reaction to Vasic statement
- RT RS credited for objective reporting during aggression on Yugoslavia
- Bicakcic and Slovenian Ambassador to BiH Mirosic discuss construction Gorenje factory in Blazuj, west of Sarajevo
- Independent Union of Professional Journalists invites BiH reporters to attempt to prevent adoption of law on libel and slander proposed by BiH Federation Government – ONASA
- Problems in both halves of Mostar but the IC does not have equal approach in resolving them – Mostar Mayor

Prskalo

- SDP BiH Vice-president Gojer accuses ruling parties in BiH Federation of leading campaign against SDP due to SDP victory in Croatian elections
- U.S Chief of Joint Staff Sheldon praises engagement of US soldiers in Kosovo
- Albanian terrorists kill two more members of Skenderi family in Prizren
- Thaci condemns murder of Muslim family in Prizren
- Body of male victim found in Vucitrn on 29 December 1999 – KFOR
- Albanian terrorists attack Habici family in Lipljan – Tanjug
- Transformation of KLA cannot be executed without problems occurring – head of Kosovo Protection Corps
- KFOR to intensify presence around Serb enclaves in Kosovo due to New Orthodox New Year celebrations
- Gracanica Serbs celebrate Orthodox New Year
- Pozarevac court releases 10 Albanians
- Pec prosecutor Soskic raises charges against 144 Djakovica Albanians – BETA
- Montenegrin, Serbian, US and EU delegations to discuss aid to needy and poor in Serbia on 19 January
- Opposition meeting in Belgrade had 'advertising significance' – SPS spokesman Dacic
- Granic resigns from all duties in HDZ – BETA
- Seks puts moratorium on activities in HDZ until end of elections – BETA
- Croatian HDZ member Ivic Pasalic freezes membership in HDZ – BETA
- Transfer of authorities to Racan will be carried out as agreed – Croatian Prime Minister Matesa
- ICTY Prosecutor's Office requests that Croatia delivers all documents related to trials of Kordic and Cerkez
- World News
- UN Security Council decides to extend UN mission in Prevlaka for additional six months – BETA

- Construction of RS Academy of Arts and Sciences to start in Banja Luka this year
- Banja Luka Reporter magazine to sue Dodik for statements it worked against RS interests
- Orthodox New Year celebrated by Serbian, Russian and Jerusalem churches
- Patriarch Pavle to officiate at mass on occasion of St. Circumcision on 14 January in Belgrade
- Weather

News Summary

Petritsch imposes law on BiH Border Service

OHR spokesman James Ferguson told a press conference in Sarajevo that High Representative Wolfgang Petritsch decided to impose the Law on BiH Border Service due to the constant failure of the BiH Parliament House of Representatives to adopt it. UN Special Envoy Jacques Klein supported this decision. Ferguson added that Petritsch is extremely dissatisfied with the inability of Serb representatives in the BiH House of Representatives to represent the honest people of BiH. Petritsch will not allow a few state representatives from the RS to disrupt the hopes of the entire country for prosperous and open future. According to Ferguson, Petritsch believes that these officials claim to protect the so-called national interests of RS citizens but in fact are harming the development of the RS and welfare of its citizens with this kind of obstruction. Petritsch will not accept the stressed neglect of the interests of BiH citizens and their future, the Dayton Agreement, the Madrid Declaration of the Peace Implementation Council and New York Declaration of the BiH Presidency because obstruction is not an option. Unfortunately, the BiH House of Representatives showed it is not ready to provide leadership that would lead BiH into Europe and a prosperous and democratic future, said Ferguson. The High Representative expects the BiH Ministry for Civil Affairs and Communications to immediately apply regulations

from the Law on BiH Border Service because it is vital for European integration. European Commission spokesman Frano Marojevic stated that the EC is disappointed that Petritsch had to impose this law and added that the failure of the BiH House of Representatives, by which BiH stands to lose millions of KM, could have an influence over international donors. Ferguson also said that Petritsch welcomes an agreement between the three director generals of the BiH Civil Aviation Directorate with neighboring countries on the control of airspace, which will open for civilian air traffic on 27 January. Meanwhile, OSCE spokesperson Tanya Domi announced public draws for determining the order of political parties and candidates on election lists for the upcoming BiH municipal elections. The draw will be held on 18 January.

02:40

SRS holds press conference

SRS General Secretary Ognjen Tadic told a press conference, held before High Representative Wolfgang Petritsch imposed the Law on the BiH Border Service, that the SRS welcomed the positive result of the BiH House of Representatives session because it did not adopt the law. Tadic said that RS representatives acted in a patriotic manner by rejecting to pass a law that is in contradiction to the Dayton Peace Agreement. Commenting on an invitation by International Brcko Supervisor Robert Farrand to RS parties to appoint candidates for the Transitional Brcko Assembly, Tadic said that the SRS did not receive any such invitation. He added that current activities Farrand is implementing in Brcko do not originate from the Dayton Agreement. Banja Luka SRS Board President Dane Brankovic invited RS citizens to boycott BiH municipal elections because, according to him, they would neither be free nor democratic.

00:52

IMC reaction to Vasic statement

According to ONASA, IMC spokeswomen Zinaida Babovic said that RS Information Minister Rajko Vasic's statement that the IMC has no right to determine the monthly fee for frequencies of electronic media in BiH only confuses the public. She added that Vasic is provoking and undermining the authority of the IMC and the OHR. Babovic said that High Representative Wolfgang Petritsch has been informed in regard to Vasic's attitude and expects Petritsch to undertake appropriate measures regarding this issue.

00:31

RT RS credited for objective reporting during aggression on Yugoslavia

"In a report following a visit of students of the Institute for Human Rights, RT RS was credited for objective reporting during the NATO aggression on Yugoslavia. Following this award, the IMC wanted us (RT RS) to remind the public that the Council of IMC, during the period of the NATO airstrikes, fined the then SRT for violations of its Code of Program Editing" said the RT RS presenter.

00:25

Banja Luka Reporter magazine to sue Dodik for statements it worked against RS interests

According to BETA, the Banja Luka weekly Reporter is going to sue RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik because he told the Belgrade daily Blic that certain Reporter journalists are working against RS interests. The Reporter Editorial also stated that Dodik said the journalists had been publishing lies due to their frequent visits to Sarajevo and information they received from circles that were exclusively against the RS. Reporter believes that, instead of answering charges of corruption, about which the daily wrote, Dodik has decided to

slander Reporter in the media. Reporter also has information that officials from Dodik’s administration have been carrying out a campaign against the magazine for over a year now.

00:40