OHR RTRS News Summary, 13 March 2000

News Headlines

- BiH Presidency meets with Robertson
- International organizations concerned over slow implementation of property laws – Deputy High Representative Hancock
- Dodik lays cornerstone for 340 refugee homes in Vukosavlje
- Poor security situation in Janja, near Bijeljina, will not be tolerated any longer – Bijeljina authorities and IC officials
- RS needs KM 4 billion to build 105,000 apartments – RS Minister for Spatial Planning Jovo Basic
- RS Interior Ministry investigates Kopaci incident in which house of Bosniak returnee damaged
- Incel workers block Banja Luka-Kotor Varos intersection demanding back-salaries, continuation of production and health and pension insurance
- Malic and Nozica leave SPRS, Gligoric is new SPRS General Secretary
- ICTY convenes trial of RS Army General Radoslav Krstic
- RS Army is outside party and political disputes – RS Defense Minister Milovanovic
- Dodik meets with RS diplomats serving abroad
- BiH Federation House of Representatives adopts 2000 budget
- Kljuc Sipad workers threaten to block Bihac road if back-salaries remain unpaid
- IC understands its mission in Kosovo failed and that a new approach is necessary – Dienstbier
- Rubin visits Kosovska Mitrovica
- West will not stand idle if Milosevic tries to tighten

noose around Montenegro – Clark
- Coordinator for Southeastern Europe Stability Pact Busek opposes extension of EU sanctions against Yugoslavia
- Serbian opposition calls citizens to protest if regime closes TV Studio B
- Serbian opposition protests closure of several RTV stations in Serbia
- World News
- Cook arrives in Croatia
- Belgrade Ivo Andric Foundation marks 25th year of famous writer's death
- Yugoslav basketball player Aleksandar Nikolic dies in Belgrade
- Weather
- Robertson holds press conference in Sarajevo
- 230 Brcko District police officers receive official ID cards
- Austrian Foreign Minister Waldner condemns violence in Kosovo
- SDS says that SDA and Party for BiH entry into RS Government is sad readiness of SNSD and SNS to submit to political demands of Izetbegovic and Silajdzic
- Goals of RS Party for Democratic Progress are stability, dignity, morality and development of RS
- Strong RS is goal of SNS – Plavsic rally in Srbinje
- Many state and private enterprises under direct influence of political parties – RS Party for Banja Luka and Krajina

News Summary

BiH Presidency meets with Robertson

NATO Secretary-General George Robertson arrived in Sarajevo where he met with the BiH Presidency, IC officials in BiH and BiH opposition parties. BiH Presidency members told Robertson 100,000 persons had already returned to their pre-war homes but that BiH lacked funding to continue this process.

Officials agreed that it was necessary to respect the Dayton Peace Agreement and the New York Declaration. They also agreed with the BiH Presidency decision concerning the participation of BiH in UN peacekeeping missions. They further agreed that it was of the utmost importance for BiH executive and legislative authorities to continue on with their normal functioning. The first step in that process would be reform of the institution of the BiH Council of Ministers. Robertson said that the inauguration of the Brcko District represents a model for the future of BiH. Robertson hopes that changes, similar to those in Croatia, would happen in BiH and that the ethnic principle in voting would be abandoned. Robertson assessed that the reduction of entity army potentials as encouraging, adding that the planned 15% reduction would bring BiH closer to NATO's Partnership for Peace program. Robertson visited the Sarajevo suburb of Stup where 216 houses had been reconstructed. The EC and the NGO Solidarite provided the funding for this project. Robertson said that NATO would always support such actions. He also met with the representatives of BiH opposition parties in a session closed to the media.

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