

OHR RTRS News Summary, 17 March 2000

RT RS 19:30 and 22:00 news for 17 March 2000

News Headlines

- [OSCE](#) Chairperson-in-office Benita Ferrero-Waldner meets with BiH Presidency, Prlic and Petritsch
- Waldner holds press conference in Sarajevo
- Waldner will not visit Banja Luka due to bad weather – OSCE
- BiH joining European integration does not depend on Petritsch – Stiglmeier
- International organizations hold press conference in Sarajevo
- Project 'Civic Monitoring of Elections' presented in Banja Luka
- RS university professors and Refugee and DP Ministry employees receive February salaries
- Dodik meets with Srbac authorities
- Transport master plan report signed between BiH Transport and Communications Minister, entity transport ministers and Japanese delegation in Sarajevo
- 350 Sarajevo citizens protest against Russian intervention in Chechnya
- Robertson accuses Albanian and Serb extremists of causing problems at Serbian-Kosovo border
- KFOR will remain in Kosovo for decade or even longer – Commander Reinhardt
- Russia will participate in Contact Group session on Kosovo – Foreign Minister Ivanov
- Solana invites Kosovo Serbs to participate in work of joint administration
- 11 Serb families move from Novigrad, Kosovo – Kosovo Church Council

- Five die and two injured near Srbica – KFOR
- One Serb arrested for illegal possession of weapons near Pristina – KFOR
- KFOR to execute military exercise from 23 March to end of April
- Milosevic agrees to foreign troop deployment in Kosovo for military exercise – Greek Government spokesman
- Student movement 'Resistance' and Serb National Council Executive Board President Trajkovic agree on joint action to resolve Kosovo crisis
- On occasion of first anniversary of [NATO](#) aggression on Yugoslavia, Russia considers Yugoslav membership in Russia-Belarus Federation
- Ogoti and Mesic discuss return of refugees
- World News
- RS Religion Minister Turanjanin, Papal Nuncio to BiH and Banja Luka Bishop Komarica discuss renewal of spiritual life in RS
- Nation-wide program for diabetes promoted in Banja Luka
- Banja Luka Kosmos factory maintains satisfactory level of production
- Sports
- Weather
- Oscar statuettes go missing
- BiH Constitutional Court holds session in Sarajevo to discuss constituents of BiH people
- Russia criticizes Izetbegovic statement on Ustashes and Chetniks made during pre-election campaign – Russian Foreign Ministry
- 25 Bosniak houses restructured in Vrbanjci, near Kotor Varos – [UN](#) IPTF
- Analysis of situation in Kosovo announces upcoming potential clash between KFOR and Yugoslav Army – Russian Defense Minister Sergeyev
- [EU](#) approves 5.1 million euros for return of refugees who had left BiH – Tanjug
- SNSD Banja Luka Board holds rally in Starcevica

- Future of RS lies in stable politics and new employment generation – SNS rally in Doboј
- Democratic Patriotic Party promises it will not make false promises during the pre-election campaign
- SDP BiH election slogan is 'Change the Concept of Authority'
- SDS tells pre-election rally it opposes suspension of national parity and consensus (in decision-making) in BiH
- CD Coalition entry into RS Government is unacceptable – Serb Patriotic Party President Zupljanin
- It is necessary to realize full reform of healthcare system in RS – PDP RS
- One resolution to refugee problem is construction of alternative accommodation – RS Democratic Party
- SPO expects all RS National Assembly parties to base their work on interests of RS citizens – SPO Vice-president Perkovic

News Summary

OSCE Chairperson-in-office Benita Ferrero-Waldner meets with BiH Presidency, Prlic and Petritsch

OSCE Chairperson-in-office and Austrian Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner on her first visit to BiH met with the BiH Presidency that informed her of the results of [Dayton Agreement](#) implementation. According to Mirza Hajric, an advisor to BiH Presidency Chairman Alija Izetbegovic, Waldner offered [OSCE](#) assistance for refugee return. Hajric added that talks also focused on the permanent election law, on which Presidency members promised to intensify activities in both harmonization and adoption. Officials also discussed the privatization process and economic development. Waldner expressed satisfaction with the BiH Presidency decision to reduce military budgets by 15%, adding that the [OSCE](#) would also support this process. BiH Foreign Minister Jadranko Prlic also met with Waldner and discussed the process of BiH

stabilization, disarmament and the role of the [OSCE](#) in BiH. According to Prlic, the most attention was focused on improving the work of common BiH institutions and the upcoming local elections. "We agreed on certain measures to support the work of BiH common institutions, especially the BiH Parliament, which is the key institution for European integration" said Prlic. Waldner also met with High Representative [Wolfgang Petritsch](#), but no information was presented to the media.

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