OHR RTRS News Summary, 20 October 1999

News Headlines

- RS Government holds session in Banja Luka
- RS Government ministers discuss analyses of documents that will be discussed at eighth session of RS National Assembly
- BiH Ministers Council meets with Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly envoy Peter Bloetzer
- BiH Council of Ministers adopts budget of 265,222,239 KM
- Political Directors of Steering Board of Peace Implementation Council support Petritsch and Barry draft of BiH permanent election law
- BiH Parliamentary Assembly responsible for adoption of draft BiH permanent election law
- KM did not devaluate – BiH Central Bank Governor Peter Nicholl
- World Bank grants 20 million DM to reconstruct BiH export companies
- As RS President, I would not play games with nomination of prime minister-designee, but entrust nomination to person who could gain majority in RS National Assembly – Sarovic
- SNS holds press conference in Banja Luka
- SNS to request RS Government close refugee transit living centers and stop possible evictions during winter months – SNS Vice-president Branislav Lolic
- Air Srpska and Air Bosnia agree to establish regular route Banja Luka-Sarajevo
- Stiglmayer statement on continuation of evictions in winter months is irresponsible and unprofessional – Mirza Hajric
- Prskalo rejects suggestion of High Representative for

Mostar Airport Control Board to be multiethnic (Bosniak participation)

- Recent IC measures in Mostar were legal and within mandate of SFOR and OHR – OHR Mostar Regional Office Acting-Head Gerhard Sontheim
- Central Bosnia Canton Bosniak Refugee Association holds protest rally in Travnik due to difficult conditions for Bosniak returnees in this canton
- Bosniak refugees attempting to harvest land in Serb Gorazde are stopped, route between Serb Gorazde and Srbinje blocked a few hours in protest, now clear
- UN and IPTF hold joint press conference in Banja Luka
- IPTF not satisfied with work of Mrkonjic police – IPTF/UN spokesperson Alun Roberts
- Dodik statement on RT RS transmitters
- Djindjic confirms readiness of Dodik and RS Government to assist Serbian opposition
- Montenegrin equality in Yugoslav Federation diminished – Djukanovic
- UN police officers find body of Serb woman near Urosevac, Kosovo
- Three Serb houses attacked on Tuesday in Mogile village, near Vitina – KFOR spokesperson
- UN Mission to Kosovo and KFOR will not support establishment of Serb Protection Corps in Kosovo – UN Head of Mission to Kosovo Kouchner
- Serbs in northern Kosovo plan to establish Protection Force that would be part of French KFOR force – Kosovska Mitrovica Serb National Council
- Hashim Thaci rejects Serb attempt to cantonize Kosovo
- Cantonization of Kosovo is concept of Kosovo Serbs – Serb National Council envoy Marko Jaksic
- Tensions between Kosovar Albanians who support Kosovo independence and those who support UN will increase – Annan
- Operation to stop Black-marketeering in Trebinje carried out

- Sports
- Weather
- RS Government to send draft law on refugees, displaced persons and returnees in RS to RS National Assembly eighth ordinary session for discussion
- RS Deputy Prime Minister Savo Loncar denies news from RT RS that RS Government will draft law on rights for war veterans, war invalids and families of fallen soldiers
- BiH Council of Minister members to try to agree on reconstruction of BiH Council of Ministers at session on 26 October
- Europe Council envoys meet with envoys of both BiH Houses in Sarajevo
- KM became dominant currency in BiH – Nicholl
- Nicholl meets with Dodik and RS Finance Minister Novak Kondic
- Ministers of Labor and Social Politics of Southeast European countries to hold conference in Sofia
- BiH should put accent on economic reforms, not only reconstruction of economy – Barry
- Political parties must leave economy alone – Barry
- Tudjman demand for third entity is interference in BiH business – Silajdzic
- It will be difficult to secure return of Bosniaks and Croats to Brcko while BiH Federation will not secure return of displaced Serbs living in Brcko to BiH Federation – Brcko Supervisor Farrand
- Problems with pensions of Serbs from Drvar and Glamoc – BiH Federation Ombudsman Midhat Causevic
- Norwegian Government to give three million DM for reconstruction of houses for returnees in BiH – Norwegian Foreign Minister
- Kosovo Albanians beat three Serbs in Pristina
- Information of KFOR arresting two Serbs suspected for war crimes not true – UN
- SPO President Draskovic meets with French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine in Paris

- Several opposition parties to sign agreement on formation of coalition – Alliance for Changes Coordinator Vladan Batic

News Summary

Dodik statement on RT RS transmitters

RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik offered to allow the use of RT RS transmitters to broadcast Serbian opposition programming to Yugoslavia. Dodik announced this at a meeting with Serbian opposition officials and western diplomats in Laktasi. Dodik said that the RT RS could be boosted in border areas with Yugoslavia. He suggested that another meeting with the Serbian opposition and EU ministers be held in Bijeljina or Banja Luka. SRNA reported that British, Finnish and German Ambassadors and US Ambassador Robert Frowick met with leaders of the Alliance for Changes Dragoslav Avramovic, Vladan Batic, Vuk Obradovic and Slobodan Vuksanovic.

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Djindjic confirms readiness of Dodik and RS Government to assist Serbian opposition

Democratic Party of Serbia President Zoran Djindjic confirmed in an interview with SRNA that the RS Government and Prime Minister Milorad Dodik expressed readiness to help the Serbian opposition. This assistance will help lift the media blockade in Serbia through the establishment of a network of transmitters in the RS that could broadcast programming to Vojvodina and western Serbia. Djindjic said that local TV stations in Bijeljina worked very well and it would only be necessary to boost their signals to cover all of Serbia. He added that this would save the Serbian opposition the bother of building completely new stations to broadcast programs into Serbia. “No matter how little this may seem for the RS, this is enormous help for us” Djindjic said.

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