OHR RTRS News Summary, 22 August 2000

News Headlines:

- Lowest price of work (minimum wage) in RS is now KM 68 instead of previous KM 80 RS Government
- Dodik promises new measures to improve status of RS pensioners
- Second part of June pensions to be paid on 23 August –
 SRNA
- RS Refugee and DP Minister Miladin Dragicevic resigns explaining that IC and refugee associations exerted pressure on Ministry and himself to implement return of property and refugee laws
- OHR criticises slow process of refugee return in RS
- BiH Border Service suspends decision on green cards for Yugoslav vehicles until further notice
- RS Interior Minister Sredoje Novic disappointed by BiH Border Service decision on green cards
- •RT RS crew visits Raca and Pavlovica Most border crossings near Bijeljina, reports that there are very few crossings with motor vehicles, the majority of passages are on foot
- Dusanic transport company suspends transport service for Yugoslavia until further notice
- Dodik meets with <u>SFOR</u> Commander Ronald Adams, no public statements
- Adams and Novic assess that RS Interior Ministry conducted successful investigation in case concerning attack on SFOR base in Zvornik
- BiH Presidency insists on greater co-ordination with BiH Council of Ministers and BiH Parliamentary Assembly Houses
- •State of emergency declared in Srebrenica due to

numerous fires

- Fires burning around Drvar
- RS Interior Ministry has not received any announcements on Bosniak tent-settlement preparations in Banja Luka – Novic
- SDA Banja Luka opposes construction of tent-settlements in Banja Luka
- OHR spokesman Oleg Milisic denies claims that High Representative forbade operation of Radio Yugoslavia near Bijeljina
- OSCE condemns Yugoslav decision forbidding visas to OSCE experts to monitor situation in Serbia before elections
- Croatian police arrest three returnees from Yugoslavia due to their alleged criminal records — <u>UNHCR</u>
- UAE soldier kills 54-year-old Albanian and injures his 21-year-old son in Svinjari, Kosovo
- Bush promises to reconsider US military engagement abroad in case he wins elections — SRNA
- Putin declares Day of Mourning on 23 August throughout Russia for 118 crew members who perished on submarine Kursk
- World News
- Ljubija mine restarts operations
- Sports
- Weather

News Summary:

RS Interior Ministry has not received any announcements on Bosniak tent-settlement preparations in Banja Luka — Novic (00:20)

RS Interior Minister Sredoje Novic stated that the ministry has received no announcement from Bosniaks concerning the erection of tent settlements in Banja Luka. He added the assessment that this was not only a political but also an economic problem. In his opinion, such settlements could also be erected in other BiH towns, like in Tuzla, Sarajevo, Zenica

and other places in BiH Federation as well (he implies: why aren't they).

SDA Banja Luka opposes construction of tent-settlements in Banja Luka

00:22 SDA representative from Banja Luka Smail Djuzel stated that the SDA opposes the erection of tent settlements in the Banja Luka Kastel quarter. He added that the refugee problems should be resolved through the institutions of the authority. The SDA supports all activities undertaken for return, but not those such as this one.