OHR RTRS News Summary, 24 May 2000

News Headlines

- Radisic and Tusevljak hold joint press conference
- DSP does not support Tusevljak nomination DSP member Goran Kljajcin
- SDP BiH does not support Tusevljak nomination Tokic
- Gligoric supports Tusevljak nomination BETA
- Peace Implementation Council adopts declaration in Brussels
- BiH leaders must assume responsibility for future of country – Petritsch
- Barry hopes November elections will be held in accordance with PEC Rules and Regulations
- No valid decisions can be brought in Brussels because Yugoslavia and Russia did not participate in Peace Implementation Council session – Yugoslav protest to EU
- RT RS press release
- February pensions to be paid next week RS Pension Fund
- Bratunac Technical Maintenance Factory addresses letter to Dodik, demanding resolution of their problems
- <u>World Bank</u> grants \$1,600,000 for educational development in BiH
- Majority of BiH police officers live in apartments owned by refugees – <u>UN</u> IPTF spokesperson Alun Roberts
- Srebrenica multiethnic authorities in crisis
- BiH Federation House of Representatives still supports
 BiH Federation Government ONASA
- Unidentified persons prevent protest of biology students in Belgrade
- Masked assailants chase students of Belgrade College of Electronics out of school during protest on 19 May – BETA

- Nis students protest against pressure on media and violence against demonstrators – BETA
- 1,100 non-Albanians killed since KFOR arrival Yugoslav Committee for Cooperation with <u>UN</u> President Stanimir Vukicevic
- President of Alliance for Future of Kosovo Ramus Haradinaj injured during attack on Russian soldiers on 23 May – KFOR
- Two KFOR soldiers injured in Kosovo
- Albanian President Redzep Meidani visits Pristina
- World news
- "Why BiH Needs to Join Partnership for Peace Program" roundtable held in Banja Luka
- Theater Festival concludes in Banja Luka
- Sports
- Weather
- BiH delegation takes part in conference on local and regional authority in Strasbourg
- Italy ready to assist reconstruction of BiH railways Italian Ambassador to BiH
- IMC publishes final report on media coverage between 23
 February until 20 April
- <u>OSCE</u> and Radio Fern condemn oppression of media in Serbia
- Market for prostitution grows in Kosovo International Organization for Migration
- Kosovo Serb killed by Albanians in Kosovska Vitina
- Albanians burn student dorms in Gnjilane
- German Government approves extension of German KFOR mission to Kosovo

News Summary

Radisic and Tusevljak hold joint press conference

BiH Presidency Member Zivko Radisic and BiH Council of Ministers Chairman candidate Spasoje Tusevljak held a joint press conference, during which Radisic stated that Tusevljak

is not a member of any political party and is of high moral and professional quality, adding that he can bring a new quality to the work of the Council. Radisic pointed out that Tusevljak can be an additional factor in connecting RS and BiH Federation institutions with joint BiH institutions and will work in the interest of BiH citizens, not those of parties or coalitions. Tusevljak said that he could not announce the composition of his cabinet, because consultations are in progress. Tusevljak added that he would support raising the level of economy and trust, which would make BiH important to its citizens. He said that he is a legalist and technocrat and that he would act upon those principles. Although he has not lived in the RS for over ten years, Tusevljak claims that he is familiar with the situation in BiH. He would support cooperation of the entity governments. Radisic hopes that Tusevljak's nomination will be accepted by the BiH House of Representatives. He also said that most objections to the nominations come from Sloga. Two days before the BiH Presidency held a session, Sloga sent an open letter to Radisic, supporting Svetozar Mihajlovic for the position. Radisic accused Sloga of maintaining the present situation and of not being interested in de-blocking the Council of Ministers. Commenting on PDP President Mladen Ivanic's statement that the RS is muddy ground, Radisic said that Ivanic is well aware that most hope was placed in him accepting the nomination, but he refused it three times. Radisic added that appointment of the ministries has not yet been defined and that consultations are in progress. Commenting on a reporter's claim that the SPRS is in coalition with the SDS and that it receives advice from Belgrade, Radisic said that the SPSR is an autonomous party and that cooperation is best shown through the implementation of local election results. In some towns, the SNSD and SDS cooperate, he concluded.

RTRS press release

Since the RTRS signal does not reach many parts of the RS, especially Banja Luka, RTRS issued a press release stating that the reasons for this are breaks in the transmission system of RTRS and a lack of reserve maintenance equipment. According to the release, the public was informed that on 29 March RS Telecom illegally decided to suspend its collection of TV subscriptions and, in doing so, deprived RTRS of its basic income. Furthermore, the RS Government is not carrying out its legal duties. It is obliged to pay RTRS the difference between regulated and charged TV subscriptions. The debt of the RS Government to RTRS has damaged the production of RTRS to an extent that the station was forced to sue the Government and Telecom in a regular court. Due to the Government position on RTRS and its failure to accomplish its basic legal duties, the RTRS transmission system is in a critical state. The strength of most of the transmission equipment has dropped, their vital elements are damaged and it is only a question of time when RTRS will cease broadcasting completely. The relay station on Mt. Kozara operates at half power, the FM radio transmitter at one third and it is the same with TV transmitters on Duge Njive, Udrigovo, Trebevic and Veliki Zep, as well as the FM transmitter on Udrigovo. The weakest signal is received in Banja Luka. The TV transmitter on the Banski Dvor building is being maintained only by the efforts of RTRS technicians. The TV transmitter on Banje Brdo is not being used because of lack of reserve equipment. RTRS workers hope that the listeners and viewers understand the troubles they are facing every day.

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