OHR RTRS News Summary, 8 September 1999

News Headlines

- BiH Presidency holds session in Sarajevo
- BiH Presidency adopts platform for participation in UN General Assembly session in New York
- BiH Presidency decreases military budget by 15%
- Permanent Military Committee session delayed because SFOR did not provide security for RS Defense Ministry delegation – Radisic's Advisor Samardzija
- Dodik meets with UK Ambassador Hand
- Dodik meets with Banja Luka University Union
- Dodik to visit Russia soon
- Petritsch suggests NATO officers not decrease number of troops in BiH
- Fight against corruption and crime in BiH intensified – Petritsch
- Building inspections result in over 500 criminal reports – RS Urbanism and Ecology Minister Basic
- There will be no joint textbooks or school programs in RS and BiH Federation – RS Education Minister Suzic
- Poplasen meets with Serbian Minister for Relations Outside Serbia Mircic
- RS Government decision ultimate usurpation of RS Constitution – SDS
- Serb Coalition for RS press release
- Sloga and CD Coalition to meet on 9 September – Tihic
- Two dead and four injured in explosions near Gnjilane – KFOR
- UNHCR official Robinson sends report to Annan on human rights in Kosovo
- UNHCR organizes evacuation of 138 Serbs from Orahovac
- 50 Serbs leave Prizren – Pravoslavlje Press

- 170 Serbs in Drajcici cut off from world – Pravoslavlje Press
- 30 Serbian police officers prevent Kosovo refugees from leaving Kraljevo for Belgrade
- ICTY spokesman rejects accusations ICTY pays little attention to war crimes in Kosovo
- Jackson and Cheku agree on KLA transformation into special police forces
- Kouchner promises Kosovska Mitrovica Albanians will return to Serb part of town
- Russian General Ivashov displeased with security in Kosovo
- Joint NATO and Russian efforts initiate resolution to Kosovo crisis – Clark
- Ethnic cleansing main obstacle to democracy in Kosovo – The New York Times
- Evicting Serbs is fascist behavior – Koha Ditore publisher Suroi
- German Bank not contacted on introduction of DM in Kosovo – German Bank spokesperson
- UN to perform census in end of September in Kosovo – Belgrade Blic
- After 19 September only ruler in Kosovo will be KFOR – KFOR spokesperson Joosten
- KFOR and KLA reach agreement on transformation of KLA into national guard – KFOR Deputy Commander
- Russian Deputy Defense Minister Avdeyev meets with Serbian Democratic Party President Kostunica
- Yugoslav Telecommunication Minister requires Croatia and BiH do not obstruct RTS broadcast
- No evidence of Milosevic accounts in Swiss banks – Swiss Government
- Milosevic will not resign or accept compromise with opposition – Democratic Alternative President Covic
- Vojvodina Coalition President Veselkov opposes elections in Vojvodina
- Djindjic one of 14 European politicians of 3rd

Millennium – Time

- International forces will remain in BiH for a long time – Klein
- IPTF spokesman Roberts satisfied with employment of Serb policemen in Drvar
- Jusufovic, Mayor of Brcko community Rahic, accuses Serbs and Farrand of obstructing Bosniak return there
- BiH Central Bank Governor Nichol meets with RS Finance Minister Kondic
- Number of counterfeit banknotes significantly decreased – BiH Central Bank Governor Nichol
- Request that Croatia should extradite Fikret Avdic not valid – BiH Minister for Civil Issues and Communication Asanin
- Evictions immoral and illegal – Izetbegovic
- Izetbegovic violates Dayton Agreement – Ferguson
- Andric-Luzanski meets with Croatian officials
- Ganic opposes joint Muslim and Croat school program
- ICTY investigators find Serb mass grave near Okucani
- Miro Bajramovic, who admitted to have committed war crimes in Pakrac, departs for The Hague – Jutarnji List
- World News
- RS film Povratak juznim planinama (Return to Southern Mountains) awarded Best Film Devoted to Ecology at Zlatibor International Festival
- Sports
- Weather
- Radisic and Chinese Ambassador welcome progress in implementation of Dayton Agreement
- RS Government Vice-president Gligoric and economists meet with Bulgarian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
- RS interested in buying food packages in Bulgaria – Gligoric
- Economic situation in RS catastrophic – Sarovic
- RS Army intensifies movement on Zvornik-Bijeljina-Modrica-Derventa route due to upcoming exercise – SFOR MND North

- RS Interior Minister Novic visits Nevesinje
- Izetbegovic statement on eviction might damage rule of law – BiH Ombudsmen
- Kosovo parties to hold meeting after 19 September (deadline for KLA disarmament) to define new transfer council
- Djindjic and Vedrine discuss position of Serbs in Kosovo and political situation in Serbia – SRNA

News Summary

RS Government decision ultimate usurpation of RS Constitution – SDS

The SDS issued an announcement that the RS Government's decision to revoke the RS President's rights is the ultimate usurpation of the RS Constitution and laws. They will start an initiative to relocate other institutions based in Banski Dvor if the Government does not change its decision. In their opinion, the RS ceased being a legal state when the Sloga Coalition, with the assistance of the CD Coalition, started ruling so that now the RS loses daily its democratic institutions and parts of its territory. When it ran passed its mandate a year ago, the Sloga took over the duties of legislative, executive and court authorities. The SDS believes that the present Government should change and will demand this at the next RS National Assembly session.

01:08

Serb Coalition for RS press release

The Serb Coalition for RS issued a press release asking: "What is BiH looking for in the European Council, an association of sovereign countries, when in one of its entities the High Representative may dismiss a president who has been legally elected by the people, which is a characteristics of a protectorate?" By quoting that the BiH Presidency discussed joining the European Council, they state that something that

cannot be achieved can also not be discussed.

00:30

International forces will remain in BiH for a long time – Klein

UN Special Envoy Jacques Klein stated for SRNA that until all refugees and displaced persons return home, there would be no reconciliation among the BiH nations and BiH will not integrate into Europe. He added that international forces would remain here for a long time because, among all BiH nations, there are extremists who obstruct peace and conducts wars in their own way.

00:26

Evictions immoral and illegal – Izetbegovic

BiH Presidency Member Alija Izetbegovic stated that the Dayton Agreement does not suggest the eviction of refugees, but their return home and that is why all requests for evicting those who cannot return home should be rejected. Izetbegovic invited everyone not to perform evictions if a person cannot return home, because such requests are immoral and illegal. Izetbegovic was reacting to the eviction of Sulejman Dugajlija (from Pale) who temporarily lived in a Sarajevo flat as a refugee.

00:33

Izetbegovic violates Dayton Agreement – Ferguson

OHR spokesperson James Ferguson stated for SRNA that it is unacceptable that BiH Presidency Member Alija Izetbegovic encourages state officials not to respect laws, which is obviously a violation of the Dayton Agreement. Ferguson reacted to Izetbegovic's call to not perform evictions. The OHR is not going to undertake any measures against Izetbegovic, but will wait to see what will happen next.

00:27