OHR SRT News Summaries, 10 Sept. 1997

Pale – 44 MP's attended the 12th Parliament session today and decided that the local elections will be held in the RS on September 13 and 14. They agreed that the conditions for the holding of elections improved, requesting from OSCE to cast ballots both in Sarajevo and Sokolac. They also agreed to 2,900 voters who were denied their right to vote to be added on the voters' lists, as well as that 80,000 voters from the Federation whose names or numbers were not completed at the lists must have ID's or refugee ID's with them during the process of voting. The Parliament also demanded from the people to vote for unified and indivisible RS, from the local authorities to speed up the checking up of the voters' lists, and those municipalities which noticed a large number of irregularities to boycott the elections. Vice-president of the Government, Ostojic, said that after the talks with OSCE and EU, they agreed that OSCE will not exercise their recently adopted rules, such as arrest of alleged war criminals from the sealed indictment lists while they are voting, they will not interfere with the implementation of election results, and strictly supervise voters in order to disable them from voting more than once. The Parliament also adopted draft laws on refugees, public peace and order, strikes, etc.
3:00

Belgrade – Krajisnik and Milosevic met HR Westendorp and his Principle Deputy Klein, and discussed the political situation in the RS and the upcoming local elections. The meeting was held behind closed doors, and there were no press statements released afterwards. However, HR Westendorp stated that they primarily talked about the local elections, confirming that the elections will be held, although there are some technical irregularities that will be removed. According to Westendorp,

they also touched on the issues of the current political situation, media, reconstruction of police, and the work of joint institutions. The DPA must have its progress which will be reached through the holding of local elections, said Westendorp. He said that there were no concrete agreements, but he hopes that some will be reached in the future.
2:00

Flash News:
Member of the RS Senate, Nokovic demanded from Plavsic to resign, because she endangered the people and the RS with her improper and dilettante behaviour. Le Figaro reported on Buha's statement at the yesterday's press conference, that Plavsic is the toy under outside control, afraid to face the elections because she knows that she would be defeated.

International Herald Tribune reported that statements that the RS people are confused and misled, and that they would want the same as Muslims only if Karadzic's is removed are not realistic. The Tribune openly reminded the US that war in former BiH started because Muslims wanted a unified and centralised state, whereas Serbs and Croats wanted to have their own independent entities.

Austrian media reported on the recent events in Banja Luka, concluding that the incident occurred because of foreign mentors who perfidiously orchestrated conflict between Serbs and Serbs. The US does not have its firm position regarding BiH. After the DPA was signed, this country started to interpret it as it suits them. In order to withdraw their troops from BiH, US will have to consider certain options, among which division of BiH would be the only one which would bring stability.
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One and indivisible RS was the motto of all SDS rallies which were held throughout the RS today – in Rogatica, where one of SDS members said that if we already accepted democracy and

fight against crime we should demand from Ms. Plavsic to, as a believer, lay her hand down on the cross and tell the people what kind of meeting she held with Albright. I am convinced that she would not dare to tell us the truth, then in Modrica, Trebinje, Lopare, Samac, etc. Meetings were held before several 1,000 people each. No Karadzic's posters this time, but Serb and SDS flags.
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Pale – SRS (Serb Radical Party) held its rally today before several hundreds of people. Their representatives underlined that their support of the idea of a unified and indivisible RS in which all of its citizens should live peacefully and together. They also support SDS Serb Sarajevo that build this town, because 'they are the only brains of this country'.
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The RS Ministry of Justice sent original documents to the Hague Tribunal in order to deny that Serbs committed the aggression and occupation of the BiH, and that Croats and Muslims are the only victims of the war. However, these documents claim and give a basic proof that Croatia, with assistance of BiH Muslims and BiH Croats, carried out the aggression on BiH and Serbs. These documents should also be presented to international media which will finally and totally change their vision of the situation in BiH during the war. The RS only demanded from the Hague to equally treat all three sides in the civil war. The documents were sent to Judge Arbour, who will not be biased, the RS Court believes, and will read the documents with interest. The Hague investigation team should check credibility of the documents on the ground, and the RS will provide good co-operation with them.
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Head of the Centre for Police Training General Mandic was brutally evicted from his office and locked at a home prison in Banja Luka. His students abandoned the school and will not return until Mandic is back at work. SRT learns that this was

not the only case of replacement in this school.

Bijeljina – MUP General Borovcanin and police officers and officials throughout the RS talked about the security situation and providing of security during the elections. RS police will increase patrolling since a large number of voters from FRY and the Federation are to come the RS.
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Tomorrow at 7 a.m. the pre-election silence will begin, which orders all the political parties in the RS and the Federation to stop with their election campaign. STR reads out the whole OSCE document on rules for the pre-election silence.
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Summary SRT TV News Banja Luka

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