

OHR SRT News Summary, 10 March 1999

Headlines

- The RS people are losing trust in the international community- Serb academicians
- First working meeting of the RS NA expert group for the Brcko decision
- Milosevic- Holbrooke talks in Belgrade- pressure mounting on the FRY to accept [NATO](#)
- Will the Croatian demands for a third entity be unanswered?
- Ruthless actions of the Turkish army against Kurds

The RS NA political-expert group for the enforcement of the NA decision not to accept the Brcko decision held its first meeting in Banja Luka. As stated in the press release, the Commission expects all institutions and individuals holding public functions in the RS and common BiH institutions to act within the mandate given in the RS NA decision.

0:13

The RS Academy of Sciences issued a press release saying that the international community, with the creation of a third entity and the dismissal of a legally elected president, has created, willingly or unwillingly, an ambience in which the people are losing faith in the international community, its representatives and good intentions.

0:24

The RS Vice President talked with Brcko Mayor, Borko Reljic. "We talked about the work of the legal-expert group which is to meet with Mr. Westendorp. We are going to advocate RS interests and shall act in line with the RS NA decision."- Borko Reljic said.

0:18

Zivko Radisic, Chairman of the BiH Presidency, talked with the Deputy High Representative, J. P. Klein in Banja Luka. "I asked Ambassador Klein to facilitate Mr. Owen coming to Banja Luka and finding a solution in talks with the expert group."- Radisic said after the meeting.

0:44

Nikola Polasen stated that the decision of the High Representative to dismiss him from office was not founded, illegal and anti-democratic in terms of the Dayton and RS Constitution. He said that he would accept the decision if the RS people accept it on referendum, as it was foreseen in the RS Constitution. Commenting on the Brcko decision, he said that a de facto third entity had been created in BiH.- Poplasen said to Zagreb weekly "Globus". In his interview to the BBC, Poplasen said that the principle on the forming of a new government had been agreed and that in the following days concrete negotiations should be concluded. "I hope that a new national unity government will be elected in the next RS NA session."- Poplasen said.

1:03

The High Representative said in his interview to Nezavisne novine that he was prepared to offer his assistance in order to help the RS authorities implement the Brcko decision in a proper manner in RS interests. Commenting on the decision of RS representatives to freeze their function in the BiH common institutions Mr. Westendorp said he expected their return to those institutions once the improvements were made. Responding to a question why he had dismissed Nikola Poplasen from office, he said that Poplasen did not act like an RS President but as an SRS member.

0:47

SDS issued a press statement positively assessing the high degree of unity of Serb parties in the RS NA regarding the

Brcko decision and unconstitutional dismissal of Nikola Polasen. SDS will ask that the next session of the RS NA be held in Brcko. Petar Djokic is asked to start immediate consultations on the forming of a new government.

0:27

The Radical Party of the RS considers that the Brcko decision is wrecking the [Dayton Agreement](#) by its creators. The Radical Party supports the legally elected RS President as well as the Prime Minister's decision to resign.

0:33

At a press conference SRS representatives accused the High Representative of violating the DA. Mirjana Sainovic said that there were indications that the High Representative was going to ban the work of the SRS.

0:27

More than a hundred supporters of the SRS peacefully protested against the dismissal of Nikola Poplasen and the Brcko decision today in Banja Luka. Derventa was visited by the Head of Banja Luka OHR office, Miguel Arias regarding the hand grenade attack on the Derventa OHR office during the night between Saturday and Sunday. "I came here to Derventa to express to the Mayor of the city the profound concern and strong condemnation of the High Representative, as the hand grenade was thrown through our office here in Derventa."- Miguel Arias said.

0:29

Ambassadors to BiH of China, Hungary and Iran and EU Council Secretary have stated that they would support in the international institutions the RS NA decision to change the Brcko decision.

0:34

Kosovo related issues:

- Milosevic received Holbrooke in Belgrade. The acceptance

of the peace plan together with military plan was discussed

- One police officer was hurt in fighting with KLA near Malisevo-OSCE Spokesperson from Prizren stated
- Miljan Mitrovic, who was kidnapped by the KLA, phoned his family and confirmed that he is well and is being treated correctly
- The fate of the police official kidnapped yesterday is as yet unknown- OSCE Spokesperson from Prizren announced
- KLA does not want to accept a peaceful solution of the Kosovo crisis although they had promised this to the U.S. envoys- Brussels media report.