OHR SRT News Summary, 15 March 1998

Headlines

- Final Arbitration Decision Postponed Till End of This or Beginning of Next Year
- Fourth Regular Session of RS NA Finished Late Last Night, To Be Continued on Friday, March 20th
- Protests in Kosovo Continue
- Regional Elections in France

The International Arbitration Commission on Br~ko IEBL decided today to maintain the existing position of Brcko, under international supervision, until the final decision to be made at the end of 1998 or beginning of 1999. This decision was announced today by the International Arbitrator Roberts Owen, in Washington at 1600hrs, by the HR Carlos Westendorp in Sarajevo, Deputy HR Donald Lamont in Brcko, and RS Arbitrator Vitomir Popovi} in Banja Luka. Commenting on the decision, Biljana Plavsic, President of the RS, said that the Serb side was not completely satisfied, primarily because the decision is not final. However, the President and Prime Minister Dodik guaranteed that all RS obligations towards the Arbitration Tribunal would be fulfilled.
2:05

Deputy HR, Donald Lamont briefly commented on the arbitration decision, at the OHR in Brcko. Lamont said that the decision was binding, and expressed the hope that the sides would continue their cooperation with the OHR in the new implementation process which will start in Brcko tomorrow.
0:55

Member of the BiH Presidency, Mom~ilo Kraji{nik, said that the arbitration decision was outside the Dayton Accord, as a

“temporary” condition had been introduced. He said that the unskilled guiding of the process brought not only the IEBL into question, but the whole territory of the Brcko municipality. He said that Roberts Owen had no right to make a decision himself, as it had been specified in the Dayton Agreement that, in the event the sides could not agree, Brcko should remain in the RS.
1:10

The RS National Assembly finished its fourth regular session late last night, and it was decided that the session should be continued on Friday, March 20th, when the Proposal of the Law on Banking Agency would be considered. The Assembly adopted the RS Budget for 1998 last night, and the Government has undertaken to present the basis of its economic policy by April.
0:40

The RS Government, Syndicate Union and the Branch Syndicate for Education, Science and Culture agreed today on conditions for ceasing the teachers’ strike. The agreement states that the RS Government, in accordance with the Collective Treaty, will regularly pay salaries to teachers in the coming period and provide a long service payment for 1997, in three equal amounts in the next three months. The Government and the Union have undertaken to work further with the IC, to find a solution for the deficits for December 1997 and January 1998. The Agreement was signed by RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, Minister of Education, Dr. Nenad Suzic, Chairman of the RS Syndicate Union, and Chairman of the Branch Syndicate, Ranka Mi{i}.
1:05