

# OHR SRT News Summary, 15 March 1999

## Headlines

- Radisic, Poplasen, Djokic and Dodik received in separate meetings a delegation of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Second round of talks on solution of the Kosovo crisis commenced in Paris
- Trial to Dinko Sakic started
- American airplanes bombed the north of Iran

The OHR has not set a deadline for the vice-president Mirko Sarovic to declare himself on taking over the duty of the RS President – the OHR spokesperson James Fergusson stated to SRNA today. Fergusson expressed hope that Sarovic would accept the duty. He went on saying that if Sarovic does not accept to be the RS President, according to the hierarchy foreseen by the RS Constitution, the RS NA Speaker Petar Djokic should assume the function.

1:00

The representatives of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs were in Banja Luka today. They had talks with the high political officials of the RS – Radisic, Poplasen, Djokic, Dodik and party leaders Plavsic and Kalinic. The meetings considered the current political situation in the Republic, especially the consequences of the recent decision on future legal and political status of Brcko.

3:20

The representatives of the SRS participated in the consultations pertaining to the nomination of the new prime minister designate held in the RS Presidency today. The representatives of the SRS together with the representatives

of other parliamentary parties assessed that, at this moment, the most acceptable candidate is Mladen Ivanic, the SRS press release says.

0:55

The representatives of the Serb Coalition for RS agreed with other Serb parties that, at this moment, Mladen Ivanic would be the most suitable person to unite, in the capacity of the prime minister, the current interests of the Serb people in whole.

0:20

The Main Board of the SPRS assessed the resignation of the RS Government as a moral act and estimated that the current Government was not objectively in a position to ensure the necessary internal unity at this moment, says the SPRS press release.

1:50

The SDS asks that the decision on Brcko, which is, as Cavic said, an attack against the bases of the DA, be withdrawn or altered, Cavic stated at a press conference held in Banja Luka today. He went on to say that the announced rallies are not the rallies of the parties but the rallies of support to the institutions of the RS. Cavic appealed to the citizens of the RS for the rallies to be held in a peaceful atmosphere and said that the leadership of this party would speak at the rallies, which is expected of all other, even non-parliamentary parties.

0:44

The RS Association of the Journalists condemned the incident caused by the spokesperson for OHR, Christian Palme on March 12, when, on the occasion of giving the statements by the RS NA Speaker Petar Djokic and HR Carlos Westendorp, he requested the speaker's platform to be moved away from the Serb flag. As stated in the press release, the Association of the Journalists considers that, with this act, Palme lost the

trust of journalists and that he should not represent the OHR in relations with media any longer. The Association considers that this act of underestimating the RS symbols recognized by the DA represents a severe provocation of the editorial offices and journalists, and does not represent a path for development of relations between international organizations and journalists' community in the RS. At the same time, the Association warns the bodies of the RS that the Republic protocol bears serious responsibility for this Incident, the press release says.

#### Kosovo-related news

- The participants of the talks on finding the political solution for the Kosmet, which were resumed in Paris today, met with Hill, Mayorski and Petrisch.
- The President of the NATO Assembly Javier Rupers stated for the Bulgarian press that [NATO](#) would not go to Kosmet without the consent of Belgrade and Pristina.

6:18

The deputies of SDS, SRS and the Serb Coalition for RS will not attend the solemn session of both Houses of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly as well as the working session of the House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 17, the vice president of the House of Representatives Mirko Banjac stated to SRNA.

0:32

Regarding the rally of resistance for the protection of the RS announced for March 16 on the Trg Krajine, the Banja Luka mayor Djordje Umicevic issued a press release, calling on the citizens to have peaceful protests.

1:35