OHR SRT News Summary, 16 December 1998

Headlines

- PIC Conference ended in Madrid
- Six killed Serbs buried in Pec (Kosovo)
- November pensions will be paid on Monday
- UN inspectors for the control of Iraq weapons urgently left Iraq

There are no significant changes to the adopted declaration text in relation to one proposed by the Office of the High Representative. Participants in the Conference, it is said in the declaration, welcomed notable development in the implementation of the Dayton Agreement achieved in the last 12 months, and emphasised that the two coming years are crucial for the stabilisation of the situation in B&H and the region. B&H must become a modern, European country where all its citizens shall be equal before the law and determined to become an integral part of Europe. Refugee return is the highest priority and the implementation of Annex 7 will be a condition for humanitarian and any other help. SFOR will help in refugee return in terms of providing security for the returnees. Importance of strengthening the B&H Central Bank is emphasised. Declaration establishes the obligation to reform banking, taxation and economic systems.

The PIC confirmed the wide High Representative powers from the Bonn document and expanded his powers to be the final authority in the implementation of the civilian part of the Peace Agreement and that the High Representative has to encourage rapid progress in economic reforms. In the declaration Annex it is said that refugee return has to be enabled in Brcko, as well as the establishment of a multi ethnic administration and full cooperation with the

Supervisor. PIC expects that the final decision on Brcko will be reached next year.

“We are pleased with the RS position when Brcko is in question”, Dodik said at the press conference. He expressed his regrets that economic aid did not follow the establishment of democratic processes. Zivko Radisic said that things were not going to be as they were before the Madrid Conference and those who do not understand the current processes will not have the understanding of the people and international community – SRT reporter from Madrid reports. The RS President, Nikola Poplasen said that the RS delegation had reason to be satisfied and dissatisfied with the Madrid declaration. A strong call to implement the DA and determination to create conditions for peace, stability and prosperity of the B&H people are the reasons to be satisfied – Poplasen said. Strengthening of the B&H institutions at the entity institution expense is the reason to be dissatisfied – Poplasen said to SRNA.
4:13

The RS NA Speaker, Petar Djokic scheduled continuance of the second RS NA session for December 22, 1998. He talked with the Head of the American Embassy office in Banja Luka, Gabriel Escobar about it. Petar Djokic emphasised that third RS NA session will continue immediately after finished. He also said that the PM candidate did not inform RS NA Speaker that he was ready to propose the new government composition and if he does so by the time the session begins it will be added to the agenda – according to a statement from the Speaker’s Cabinet.
0:49

The Agreement between the two confederate Swiss Ministries of Refugees and RS Ministry of Refugees was signed in Banja Luka. This agreement intends to ease mutual cooperation and improve the implementation of reintegration process of the B&H citizens.
0:21

The Ministry of Information issued a statement saying that it had not cancelled Flash agency. It is normal legal procedure which cannot be influenced by the Government or Ministry. If the founder of the agency decides to stop the work of the agency, the Ministry cannot decide if that decision is right or not, or to ask the founder to change it – according to the statement.
0:33

Primary school building in Celinac and clinic building in Laktasi were opened thanks to a donation of the European Commission.
0:25

Kosovo related issues:

- The six who were killed were buried in Pec
- Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Igor Ivanov, said that the peace process will be endangered if the actions of Albanian terrorists are not stopped.
- Two terrorists with KLA signs attacked a police officer on his way to the funeral of the six killed in Pec.