OHR SRT News Summary, 16 March 1999

Headlines

- Nomination of the new prime minister designate caused numerous and varied reactions; majority of the parties supported Mladen Ivanic
- RS citizens, by a peaceful gathering, supported the decision of the last RS NA session
- Patriarch Pavle ended a two-day visit to Zagreb
- FBiH Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Jozo Leutar seriously injured in Sarajevo
- EU Commissioners tendered their collective resignation after accusations of corruption

The BiH Presidency Chairman Zivko Radisic, who put a moratorium on his functions, in a special statement to the SRT called on Serb unity and dignity as ways of overcoming the crisis in the RS. “Although these are difficult times, there is no reason for one not to believe in the possibility of a constructive and peaceful way out; there is no room for party passions or any other for that matter; only unitedly and decisively can we take our destiny into our own hands” Radisic said.
3:10

The RS NA Speaker Petar Djokic stated to SRNA that it was high time for the RS to get a Government, stressing that the nomination of a non-party person for the new prime minister designate is a solution which could obtain the support of the largest number of political parties in the RS. We believe that,by nominating Ivanic for the new prime minister designate, we have chosen a constitutional way out from the crisis. Maybe there is some other way, but I could not support it, Djokic said.

0:40

The nomination of Mladen Ivanic for the new prime minister designate is legitimate only if Sarovic is acting as an official RS President. Otherwise, it is invalid, since only the President has the authority to nominate a candidate for the composition of the new government, the spokesperson for OHR James Fergusson stated. He announced that representatives of the OHR would talk to the Vice President Sarovic, in order to determine on what basis he has nominated Ivanic for prime minister designate. Fergusson went on to say that, with this act, Poplasen had admitted he was no longer the RS President, and the HR welcomes that. If the new government is elected democratically, we will accept it. However, there is a difference between acceptance and support, Fergusson explained and reiterated the position that it was impossible for the IC to cooperate with a Government that contained members of the SRS.
0:53

The SRS considers that the proposal of the vice president Sarovic to nominate Mladen Ivanic new prime minister designate is a good solution for the Republic and that it would be good if this candidacy is supported by SNS and SNSD as well, Mirko Blagojevic, acting head of the party stated.
0:35

The SNS vice president Jovan Mitrovic stated to SRNA, commenting on the proposal for Ivanic to be the new prime minister designate, that the SPRS has probably decided to leave the concept of the coalition Sloga, which it demonstrated last night.
0:28

The decision, by which the vice president Sarovic nominated Mladen Ivanic as prime minister designate, according to the SNSD, is invalid. “It would be valid only if Sarovic, as the vice president of the RS, took over the duty of the RS

President; only then he can pronounce the name of the prime minister designate" the member of the EB of the party Slavko Mitrovic said. Mitrovic went on to say that the SNSD will support neither Ivanic nor the Government which he would propose.
2:01

The proposal for Mladen Ivanic to be the prime minister designate is a solution that leads towards establishing the unity of Serb parties in the Parliament, the vice president of the SDS, Momcilo Krajisnik stated.
0:20

The Brcko mayor Borko Reljic welcomed the nomination of Mladen Ivanic for the new prime minister designate.
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Peaceful protests, in which tens of thousands of RS citizens supported the decisions made at the last session of the RS NA, were held throughout the RS. A need for the unity of the Serb people was especially stressed. There follows footage of the rallies in Banja Luka, Brcko, Prijedor, Trebinje, Pale.
6:47

The FBiH Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Jozo Leutar was badly injured in this morning's explosion of a bomb planted in his car in the centre of Sarajevo. The BiH Presidency Chairman Zivko Radisic expressed deep concern and, as stated in the press release, condemned this and all other terrorist acts as a danger to the stability of the peace in BiH, which can be a big obstacle for further implementation of the DA. The RS MUP condemned, as stated in the press release, the assassination attempt on Leutar and all other insane acts, regardless from whom they are coming from and to whom they are directed. The OHR and UNMBiH condemned this morning's bomb attack. The SDS expresses a deep concern due to, as stated in the press release, expansion of the wave of terrorism in the territory of FBiH and expresses its honest fear that this might endanger

peace and stability in FBiH and thusly, in the whole BiH.
2:46

Kosovo-related news

- The delegations of the Serbian Government and that of the Kosmet Shquiptars resumed negotiations in Paris today by separately considering the offered solutions on the resolution of the crisis.
- According to Beta sources, there was fighting in the morning hours between the members of the MUP of Serbia and the terrorist KLA on the northwest slopes of the mountain of Cicavica.

5:34