

OHR SRT News Summary, 17 march 1998

Headlines

- Opening of Croatian Consulate Means Faster Resolution of Property and Legal Demands of Serbs from Croatia
- RS Government Led by Milorad Dodik Supported by the UNDP
- Still no Solution for Kosovo Crisis – Albanians Boycot Negotiations Again

President Plavsic and the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia, Darinko Bago, spoke today in Banja Luka about the opening of a Croatian Consulate there, the resolution of the status of refugees, and about resolving their property and legal demands. The Croatian Ambassador suggested that the RS should establish a Commission which would come to Zagreb on March 27th, to discuss these issues with the Croatian Commission. Bago informed the press that the Consulate would be open in May 1998. The President and the Ambassador also discussed economic cooperation.

01:10

President Plavsic and Prime Minister Dodik emphasised at today's separate meetings with representatives of the UNDP in Banja Luka, that the first part of this agency's assistance should be directed towards 7,500 refugees and DPs in collective centres in the RS.

00:45

US Ambassador to BiH, Richard Kauzlarich, stated in Pale today that the solution for the functioning of the CoM, suggested by the OHR, was very good and that it would be desirable if this joint institution would give an affirmative answer to the suggestion. Kauzlarich talked with Boro Bosic, CoChairman of the CoM, about improving relations between the BiH and its

neighbouring countries, Croatia and FRY. Busic stated that the coordination of the Ministries was almost completed. Neither Kaulzarich or Busic elaborated on what OHR's suggestion was exactly.

01:05

Bosi} also met today with the Greek Ambassador, Procopius Manzurianis, and they discussed the problems of BiH, and possible cooperation between Greece and BiH, as well as the assistance which Greece, as a member of the EU, might provide for BiH.

00:35

New official IDs for employees of the RS Ministry of Internal Affairs were presented in Banja Luka today. Milovan Stankovic, RS Minister of Interior, stated that the aim of introducing these IDs, for those employees of the Ministry who directly conduct affairs of Public Safety and Security, was to prevent possible misuse and certain forms of crime which had been perpetrated by some individuals with the old IDs. Stankovic also said that the deadline for replacement of old IDs was April 10th. 0

1:00

20 According to SRNA, Muslim and Croat officials in Brcko have been boycotting the multiethnic administration in the city since Friday, March 13th, with no explanation. At the same time, Croats and Muslims in the multiethnic police have started participating in joint patrols in the centre again today.

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