OHR SRT News Summary, 17 March 1999

Headlines

- Paris – Albanians ready to sign the agreement; Serbs have objections to its implementation
- Report of the Finnish pathologists neither confirmed nor denied the massacres in Racak
- Government exempted RS Elektroprivreda from customs duties
- Assassination attempt on Leutar worsened relations between the federal partners
- Several eminent politicians candidates for the president of the EC

At a press conference held in Paris, the international mediators for Kosmet – Hill, Mayorsky and Petrisch – informed that the Albanian side had accepted the peace agreement and that the act of signing would take place before the end of the negotiations. The Serb side at the negotiations still has objections to the part referring to the implementation of the agreement in the field, i.e. its military component.
0:42

The head of the Finnish pathologists' team has neither confirmed nor denied that in the village of Racak a massacre of 40 Albanians was carried out.
0:25

Other Kosovo-related news

- The Greek Government will not allow Turkey to send its troops in the framework of the NATO forces to Kosmet through Greek territory, a representative of the Greek Government said.

- The Bulgarian Prime Minister stressed in Sofia that its country advocated that the Kosovo crisis be solved by political means, assessing that a peaceful solution is the last chance for preserving the current borders of the FRY, Beta reports.

2:48
The RS Government, at today's session chaired by Milorad Dodik, considered the information on realisation of the credit invested in the eastern part of the RS. On this occasion, members of the Government made decisions on exempting RS Elektroprivreda from customs duties on three bases: donations from USAID, the EU and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development totalling DM 4 million.
1:45

OHR representatives contacted the vice president of the RS Mirko Sarovic in the last 24 hours, on whether he would take over the duty of the RS President, the spokesperson for OHR Alexandra Stiglmayer announced. Mentioning that Sarovic had not been given a deadline to declare whether he is to accept the office of the RS President, Stiglmayer repeated that the IC expects Sarovic to do so. Stiglmayer stressed that one of the IC conditions to give support to a possible Ivanic Government is that it contains members of the Sloga Coalition. Stiglmayer considers that it would be very difficult to convince international donors to provide assistance to the RS, if the Government included SRS representatives.
1:05

Expert teams from the FRY and the RS resumed consultations in Belgrade, which commenced yesterday, on re-establishing payment operations between the RS and the FRY.
1:25

The condition of the Deputy Minister of Interior Jozo Leutar is stable. The OHR confirms that apart from the local MUP

authorities, the SFOR, IPTF and even FBI are also involved in the investigation of the assassination attempt on Leutar.
2:42

Policemen of Croatian nationality have started leaving work in the common patrols with Moslems in the municipalities of FBiH, Croatian radio reports. The common Moslem-Croatian police in the Hercegovina-Neretva Canton fell apart after yesterday's terrorist act, Tanjug reports. At the same time, the heads of the Croatian police administration offices in Capljina, Neum and Stolac today fired all policemen of Moslem nationality.
0:36

An RS Government delegation left for Canada in order to provide long-term credit engagement for the delivery and assembly of 10,000 prefabricated housing units for the families of killed soldiers, war invalids, refugees and DPs in the RS.
2:07