

OHR SRT News Summary, 17 May 1998

Headlines

- RS President's statement in Canada – Dayton Agreement represents a solid basis for a good development of the Serb people
- Hanns Schumacher – the return of refugees, the economic reconstruction and safe elections as priorities of the international community
- The summit of the world's most developed countries ended

RS President today visited Toronto, Canada, where she stated that in spite of a number of shortcomings, the DA still represented a solid basis for the Serb people west of the Drina River to develop. President Plavsic also referred to the issue of Brcko and stated that the territorial continuity of the two entities was clearly stated in the DA. On the Kosovo issue, Plavsic stated that it should be resolved through a democratization of Serbia and through granting minority rights for non-Serb population in the area.

2:25

Deputy High Representative, Hanns Schumacher, in a statement to SRNA said that while the overall situation in Bosnia had largely improved, the return of refugees, the economic regeneration and safe elections were the three major problems still ahead of the international community. On the recent, return-related incidents in Drvar, Schumacher said that the responsibility for this laid with minor criminal elements of the HDZ. Stressing that the IC was decisive to prevent such elements from obstructing the return process, Schumacher said that he hoped that Mayor Marceta would be able to re-assume his position there and that the municipal authority would be restored next Friday. Schumacher, however, stressed that the

most crucial return-related issue was that of the town of Sarajevo

1:52

Serb Patriarch Pavle met with representatives of the Serb movement of resistance in Pec today, on the situation in the area of Kosovo. Kosovo remains a hot issue internationally. Leaders of the world's eight most developed countries today welcomed the recent meeting between Milosevic and Ibrahim Rugova.

0:38

(A report on conflicts in Kosovo today followed by a number of reactions on the Milosevic-Rugova meeting)

2:15

The investigation on crimes committed against Serbs in the Medak pocket in 1993 is expected to be completed by the end of this year when a group of investigators is to submit full documentation to the responsible prosecutor at The Hague.

2:22

Situation remains calm in the settlement of Svjetlica, near Dobojski, where the return of some 200 Muslim refugees did not take place yesterday in spite of earlier announcement.

0:22

A local organization of the RS Association of families of fallen and missing soldiers was today established in Bijeljina.

2:01

The fifth meeting of the HDZ leadership today ended in Mostar. The meeting elected three Vice-Presidents and the new Presidency. Ante Jelavic, the current Minister of Defense of the BH Federation, was elected as the President of the HDZ. Jelavic stressed that there was no alternative to the DA. A program declaration was adopted according to which the HDZ would primarily work to further cantonize and de-militarize

the area.

2:09