OHR SRT News Summary, 18 Nov. 1997

Headlines

- Banja Luka Airport opened today, as planned
- Momcilo Krajisnik spoke to Daan Everts, Head of the ECMM
- Javier Solana informed the Beta Agency that NATO's role during the parliamentary elections would be the same as it had been in the September elections

00:20
The airport in Mahovljani, 20 km away from Banja Luka was opened today. RS President, Biljana Plavsic, and the High Representative, Carlos Westendorp, cut the ribbon, thereby officially opening the airport for civilian traffic. The solemn opening ceremony was attended by the RS Vice President, Dragoljub Mirjanic, the Principal High Representative, Jacques Klein, a member of the B&H Council of Ministers, Spasoje Albijanic, Minister for Traffic and Communication in the RS Government, Nedeljko Lajic, the Ambassadors of the USA and the UK, and many others. "This is a special day for BL, the RS and this whole region. The airport, which remained undamaged during the war, will be a gate to the world that we shall enter thanks to the IC and thanks to our friends.

Our efforts to open the airport for civilian traffic succeeded today," the President said.

The High Representative, Carlos Westendorp, described the airport opening as an example of what can be done when people set politics aside and work on the normalisation of their lives.

Even though an aircraft of Yugoslav Air Lines failed to land

today at Banja Luka Airport, the regular line, Belgrade-Banja Luka, is expected to be organised soon. Many European companies expressed their interest in flights to the RS.
02:00

Since this is a week of pre-electoral campaigning, we note several parties' promotions, such as the Serb National Alliance and SDS. One took place today in Banja Luka, and the other one in Serb Brod.
01:15

It was decided by the Provisional Electoral Commission of the OSCE that the pre-electoral silence would last from 07.00 on Friday, 21 November, to 16.00 on Sunday, 23 November, 1997.
00:35

In respect of preparations for the parliamentary elections, the Provisional Electoral Commission of the Republic convened a session today in Pale.

It was stated at the session that, even though OSCE and local electoral commissions had made enormous efforts, some difficulties in additional registration of voters had appeared.

However, participants expressed their hope that those difficulties would be soon be resolved.

The Provisional Electoral Commission of the Republika Srpska called on all political parties and independent candidates who will stand in the parliamentary elections not to endanger the election process and to behave in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by the Provisional Electoral Commission.
01:00

The Confederation of Trade Unions of RS calls on all citizens, workers and pensioners in the RS to vote in the forthcoming elections. As an interested and non-partisan organisation, the

Confederation could not support any specific party or individual, but it could suggest to the people that they vote for the ones whose attitude is strongly pro-Republika Srpska.

Representatives of some political parties talked in the pre-electoral campaign about the Incel company from Banjaluka. Such as Mr. Dodik, who supports idea of closing down this company. Therefore, the Confederation of Trade Unions of RS issued a statement, criticising such politicians and reminding them of the capacity of that enterprise.
01:30