OHR SRT News Summary, 18 October 1998

Headlines

- OSCE forerunners arrived in Pristina
- New victims reported in Albanian terrorists' attacks against Serb police positions
- India -Pakistan dialogue ended – no agreement on the disputable bank of Cashmere

(selection of Kosovo-related news) The first OSCE technical team in charge of preparing the ground for the deployment of OSCE verifiers arrived in Pristina (the capital of Kosovo) at 12:00 hrs today. According to the head of the first OSCE group the OSCE forerunners will be visiting about 20 locations in Kosovo and assessing what will be necessary to be done for the arrival of the OSCE mission in the area.
1:21

Pentagon has confirmed that the NATO Force Commander for South-Eastern Europe, Wesley Clark, will be visiting Belgrade tomorrow to forward the official message to President Milosevic of Yugoslavia saying that NATO forces will be activated on 27th October unless all of the obligations assumed under the agreement on Kosovo are fully implemented by that time.
0:20

Fehim Agani, who is believed to be the political representative of the so-called OVK (Kosovo Liberation Army) has been reported as saying that the solution for Kosovo as given in the agreement reached between Richard Holbrooke and President Milosevic is unacceptable for the Kosovo Albanians and that the real negotiations are yet to start.
0:24

Several months have passed since the convertible marka became a tender currency in BiH and since announcements were made of a reform of the RS monetary system. While the official exchange rate between the Yugoslav dinar and the convertible marka remains exactly the same as the rate between the DM and Yugoslav currency, one can still not buy convertible marka paying in dinars. To buy a convertible marka at the black market exchange rate, one needs to pay 6,8 dinars, whereas 7 dinars would be necessary to buy one DM. According to unofficial information, the majority of local banks have still not included the convertible marka into their currencies' lists. Very few local companies use convertible marka in their business and payment activities, and those are mainly companies that are involved in export business activities.
1:59

The President of the SRS and the newly elected RS President, Nikola Poplasen, today awarded the Cross of Mercy to the Petrovo Hospital in the municipality of Petrovo, in the Ozren mountain, because of its great contributions both during the war and in the post-war period.
0:24

A Paris court has delivered a verdict in the case against the Paris-based "Courrier International" newspaper describing the article published in it and claiming the alleged criminal past of the Head of the RS Bureau in France, Ambassador Miodrag Jankovic, during the war in BiH as a serious slender.
0:40

SRNA reports that according to the Sarajevo media, under the Law on abandoned apartments that was passed during the war, returnees to the BH Federation will only be able to re-obtain their pre-war apartments if the family of the pre-war occupancy right holder is larger than the family currently occupying the apartment. The article carried by SRNA went on to state that the main criteria applied in the returns of pre-war holders of occupancy right has been agreed between the OHR

and the BH Federation Ministry of Urbanism, based on a law which has made invalid the earlier legislation on abandoned apartments.
0:35