OHR SRT News Summary, 20 Oct. 1997

Headlines

- The next step in the implementation of the DA – the main subject of the diplomatic activities of President Plavsic
- Two-day mini international conference regarding the implementation of the arbitrage decision for the Brcko area has begun in Vienna
- The deadline for registration of political parties for the forthcoming extraordinary parliamentary elections expired today at 17:00 hours
- More and more certain – Milo Djukanovic new president of Montenegro

The reorganisation of the Serb police, the forthcoming extraordinary parliamentary elections and the current situation within the media of the RS were the main topics of today's conversations between President Plavsic and representatives of the IC, Kai Eide, special envoy of the UN Secretary-General, Lt Gen Cordy-Simpson, Assistant to the SFOR Chief Commander, and George Robertson, the UK Minister of Defence.

President Plavsic received the Ambassador of Slovenia in BiH, Drago Mirozic, today.

The possibility of finding help for reform of the police in the RS, for which the assistance of the IC is required, was discussed at the meeting behind closed doors. To that end, Kai Eide will be traveling to the capitals of the western European countries in order to find support for this project.

Cordy-Simpson stressed that he had exchanged views with

President Plavsic about the general situation in the RS and specifically about security issues after, as he put it, the sabotage of the SRT transmitter in Zepa. This situation will be further discussed at OHR, Sarajevo.

President Plavsic talked with George Robertson today. The forthcoming parliamentary elections were the centre of attention, as well as certain aspects of the crisis concerning the media situation in the RS. “We will support anyone who is working in the interest of peace and democratic changes in BiH”, said the British Minister.

President Plavsic talked with Drago Mirozic in Banja Luka today. “We have always appreciated the Slovenes as a pragmatic people who know how to run an economy. I expect, after today’s meeting, to have very useful contacts between economists from the RS and Slovenia,” said Plavsic. “The Republic of Slovenia is interested in re-establishing business relations with the RS as soon as possible,” stressed Drago Mirozic, who brought aid for Slovenians living in Banja Luka and for the “Rada Vranjesevic” orphanage in Banja Luka.
7:30

The preparatory meeting for the international conference on the implementation of the arbitrage decision for the Brcko area began in Vienna today.

The RS delegation consists of the Vice-president of the RS, Dragoljub Mirjanic, the Arbiter, Vitomir Popovic, the Attorney of the RS in the arbitrage procedure, Dr. Radovan Lukic, the President of the municipal Assembly of Brcko, Miodrag Pajic, and the lawyer Nikola Kostic.
1:45

The deadline for registration of political parties, ie candidate lists, for the forthcoming extraordinary parliamentary elections scheduled for Nov. 23rd expired today.

Staff from the regional OSCE offices are stressing that the

number of registered political parties is not known yet, but it should be pointed out that the final deadline for the registration of new coalitions is Oct. 22nd. Also, the deadline for submitting candidate lists of political parties and coalitions is open until Oct. 24th 1997.
2:44

SFOR this morning carried out an inspection of the “Famos” factory in Pale, reports Reuter.

Italian and French SFOR soldiers parked armoured cars in front of the gates of the factory complex gate which, during the war, was the headquarters of former RS President Karadzic. A smaller SFOR unit performed a similar inspection on Friday Oct. 17th, reports Reuter.
0:30

Though many crossings have been registered at the Sava bridge in Gradiska since it opened, a lot of work still remains to be done with regard to bus and freight traffic.

According to current Croatian laws and regulations, citizens of the RS cannot enter Croatia with FBiH passports, not even if they are in transit on the way to some other country. Travel documents issued in Sarajevo cannot be used by the citizens of the RS, because between the Republic of Croatia and the RS there is no agreement on this issue. However, citizens of FBiH have no problems whatsoever with documents issued in Sarajevo.
3:20

Summary SRT TV News Pale/Banja Luka

Monitored by OHR in Sarajevo

There was neither Pale nor Banja Luka news. There was only a text in Cyrillic saying that :

Upon the request of the HR, SFOR carried out a technical

inspection of the SRT transmitter Veliki Zep, on October 18 1997. Upon SFOR’s arrival, they learnt that unknown RS citizens carried out an act of sabotage. SRT from Banja Luka will start with its programme as soon as conditions allow.