OHR SRT News Summary, 21 March 1999

Headlines

- Radisic and Meigs: possible decrease in SFOR presence in Posavina.
- NATO shortens the deadline for the Yugoslav authorities to accept the agreement.
- Netanyahu threatens Arafat with a serious response in the event the latter declared a Palestinian state.

Chairman of the BiH Presidency, Zivko Radisic, whose function is under moratorium, today asked the <u>SFOR</u> Commander, Montgomery Meigs to decrease <u>SFOR</u> military presence in Posavina. General Meigs stated he would do his best in order for <u>SFOR</u> to contribute to the overall stabilisation in the RS and BiH at this difficult period. After the three-hour discussions, Radisic said to the press that both parties supported re-affirming of the institutions based on the provisions of the DA, stabilisation of peace and the work of international and RS and BiH institutions in accordance with their mandate.

2:05

Kosovo-related news: US national security advisor, Samuel Berger stated for CBS that tomorrow's visit to Belgrade by Richard Holbrooke will not postpone the preparations for potential strikes against the Serbs. 0:25

NATO Council warns Yugoslav President Milosevic that he still has only a few hours to accept the resumption of serious talks on the agreement. Consultations on potential air strikes are under way, said <u>NATO</u> officials. 0:25

Shqiptar terrorists continued attacks in Kosovo. 0:45UK foreign minister, Robin Cook warns the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic that the NATO threat of air strikes is very real, "Beta" agency reports. 0:10 The standing NATO committee at the level of ambassadors met today in Brussels to discuss the situation in Kosmet after the departure of KVM. 0:20 Serbia and Yugoslavia will defend themselves with all means available in case of attack, said Aleksandar Vucic, the Serbian information minister. 0:30 All KVM members are currently in Macedonia, where, according to the head of mission, William Walker, approximately 150 of them will stay. 0:15 Special EU envoy, Wolfgang Petritsch said that the only way out of the Kosmet crisis is for Serbs to accept the agreement, but he admitted it was unlikely. 0:20 China condemns **NATO** threat of air strikes against the FRY and appeals for patience. 0:25 Belarus foreign ministry thinks there are no grounds for military intervention against the FRY. 0:20 British Airways suspended flights to Belgrade, due to possible air strikes. 0:10

Belgrade is to be visited tomorrow by international envoys, trying to persuade the Yugoslav authorities to accept the agreement on Kosovo. 0:45

A few thousand citizens of Brcko and the surrounding municipalities gathered today to protest against the decision by the presiding arbitrator, Roberts Owen on the status of Brcko.

1:15

Federation related news 2:30