

OHR SRT News Summary, 21 Oct. 1997

Headlines

- President Plavsic received a delegation of pensioners in the RS
- Members of the Council of Ministers of BiH from RS talked with economists from the Banja Luka region about the significance of the package of laws contained in the Quick Start Package
- Representatives of the republic Government, trade unions and Chamber of Economics of the BL region signed a document on modifications and additions to the collective contract
- American intermediary in peace mission in the Near East

The extremely difficult financial position of pensioners in the RS was the center of attention in talks between President Plavsic and members of the republic delegation of pensioners, which consisted of representatives from BL and Prijedor.

President Plavsic stressed on this occasion that the democratisation of society would contribute to the finding of systematic solutions to this issue. After talking with President Plavsic, the representatives of the associations of pensioners in RS stated that it was realistic to expect a permanent solution regarding irregular pension payments after the parliamentary elections. President Plavsic, who promised to do her best to improve the status of pensioners, showed understanding for the justified dissatisfaction of one of the most vulnerable sections of the population.

1:15

Economists and members of the Steering Board of the Chamber of Economics of the BL region talked with members of the Council

of Ministers of BiH from RS, Boro Bosic, Spasoje Albijanic, Dado Gogic and Dragan Bozanic, about the laws from the so called Quick Start Package. Special attention was paid to the question of the law on the Central Bank and the budget. The currency in BiH will be the convertible mark. Spasoje Albijanic, Minister for Civil Issues and Communications, talked today about the law on citizenship, and stressed that the problem of citizenship of Serbs expelled from the RSK and Croatia would be resolved in the following way: all those who spent three years in RS would get citizenship of RS, which means citizenship of BiH. The issuing of passports could be expected on January 1st next year. The assistant of the Minister for External Affairs, Dragan Bozanic, expressed satisfaction regarding the number and the choice of diplomatic/consular representations in the world where the ambassadors would be Serbs. This refers especially to the Embassies in the USA, Russia, France and China.

2:01

The media situation in the RS draws the attention of the world. The International Crisis Group in its last report dealt with the question of controlling the media in FBiH. They said that the information space in the RS is not united, as Croatian and Moslem media are, but divided into two rival television stations which reflects in the best way the political division of the RS.

0:34

The cabinet of the Head of the OSCE mission in BiH today officially announced the temporary election commission, in which it was confirmed that the parliamentary elections in RS will be held on Nov. 23rd 1997.

0:25

The founding Assembly of the Serb National Alliance Biljana Plavsic for the municipality of Laktasi was held today. The municipal board was founded and Milorad Stiklica was appointed its president.

1:16

The founding Assembly of the SNS Biljana Plavsic was held today in Modrica. Milenko Grahovac was elected for president of the municipal board of the party.

1:54

People from the Party of Independent Socialist Democrats commented on the constituting of the local authorities in BL and the preparations for the forthcoming parliamentary elections at today's press conference. Milorad Dodik condemned disagreements regarding the constituting of the local authorities in BL and he added that this party would give up its participation in executive power if that would contribute to a calming down of the situation.

1:15

A press conference of international organisations was held in BL today. The situation in the media, attacks on Serb property in the Federation and the opening of border crossings were the main issues at the conference.

SRT programmes from Pale studio would not be broadcast until the demands of the OHR were respected. That meant the removal of the general director, the president of the steering board and the editorial team, and the introduction of a new programme policy whereby all political parties would have free access to state television – stressed the spokesman for SFOR south west sector at today's press conference in BL.

0:24

The president of the Government, Gojko Klickevic, the President of the Trade Unions Republic Council, Cedo Volas, and the President of the Chamber of Economics, Svetislav Mudrenovic, signed documents on modifications and additions to the collective contract and the creation of the social/economic council of RS .

1:17

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.