OHR SRT News Summary, 22 June 1998

Headlines

- After a visit to Greece lasting several days, RS President Biljana Plavsic returns to the homeland
- NATO needs UN mandate for action in Kosovo after all – stated Javier Solana
- KM officially in circulation; Yugoslav dinar still means of payment in the RS
- Illegal traffic of cigarettes intercepted at the RS and Croatian border
- 57th anniversary of the German invasion of the Soviet Union

After several days in Greece, RS President Biljna Plavsic returned to the homeland. Numerous contacts with high-level Greek officials, including the Greek Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, demonstrated the closeness between two friendly nations and Greek readiness to become actively involved in resolving the Kosovo problem and to continue to help Serb people. "Talks with Greek officials were useful. Greece is interested in maintaining peace in this area, especially in times burdened with the Kosovo situation" – stated RS President Biljana Plavsic at Banja Luka Airport.
2:27

An RS delegation, led by the Deputy Prime Minister Ostoja Kremenovic, visited the registration centre at OSCE headquarters in Vienna for voters who live outside the RS. Kremenovic emphasised that registration of voters was difficult but that there was no reason for RS citizens not to fulfil conditions for the September elections.
0:30

An RS Government delegation, led by the Prime Minister Milorad Dodik and Deputy PM Djuradj Banjac and associates, visited municipalities Mrkonjic Grad and Ribnik. During talks with municipal officials, the Prime Minister emphasised the need to revitalise production capacities and increase usage of natural resources for further development, with the help of the international community. He elaborated on this statement with a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding by which the RS received 17.7 million dollars of non-returnable assets from the American agency for international development, out of which 1.4 million dollars goes to Ribnik for the construction of a power line from Mrkonjic Grad to Ribnik and for urban planning, to which the RS Government will give 10% of the initial funds.
2:20

As of today in the RS and Federation, the official means of payment is the KM. Through the Social Auditing Service institutions, in 14 cities in both entities a total amount of 160 million DM were distributed, in various denominations. Important for the RS is the fact that the Yugoslav dinar still remains a means of payment.
2:10

Enforcing RS Government regulations, the Republic Customs Administration branch office in Banja Luka took successful action against illegal trade. On 19 June 1998, customs workers from the Banja Luka office at the Gradiska border crossing temporarily confiscated cigarettes illegally imported into the RS, worth in total around 3 million DM. The consignment had duplicate documentation, one set for transport between Slovenia and Croatia and one between Croatia and Republika Srpska. SFOR’s documentation, which is not liable to RS Customs control, indicated that the consignment contained vegetables.
2:45

Former RS NA Spokesperson, Dragan Kalinic, is the SDS

candidate for the RS Vice-President position.
1:28