

OHR SRT News Summary, 22 September 1998

Headlines

- Westendorp talked with President Biljana Plavsic and PM Milorad Dodik
- OSCE confirmed that electoral seats would not be taken away from the sanctioned parties
- Sadako Ogata in a five-day visit to FRY and Albania
- Yeltsin appointed a new government; Primakov new Prime Minister
- Fair of small businesses opened in Doboj

President Biljana Plavsic and PM Milorad Dodik received the HR Carlos Westendorp in separate visits in Banja Luka today.

"I came to Banja Luka to tell the leaders of different parties that the final election results were not known yet and that there were a great number of ballots still not counted", Carlos Westendorp stated after having met with Biljana Plavsic and Dodik.

He said that the IC would respect the will of the people and that regardless of the results of the elections, the world expects the RS to fully cooperate in the implementation of the DA.

1:50

The spokesman for OSCE, Paul Hockinos, stated in Banja Luka today that the number of electoral seats won by the SRS RS in the NA would remain unchanged. The only thing that would change is the order of names on the candidates' list.

The spokesman for OSCE, Nicole Szulc, at a press conference held in Sarajevo today, was not able to confirm whether the results of the general elections in BiH would be announced tomorrow.

The spokesman for the OHR, Simon Haselock, stressed that the

HR would accept all candidates elected in a democratic way. According to Haselock, the HR asks for consistent support for the DA, which means the creation of a political climate which contributes to peace, stability, law and order, as well as to ethnic re-integration. The HR will not tolerate the ignoring of the DA and, thus, there is no reason for him to believe that the political landscape after the elections would change the priorities of which all leaders are aware, Haselock concluded.

2:39

Regarding the Election Appeals Sub-commission decision on punishments, many parties expressed their reactions today. Mirjana Sainovic, the SRS RS former first candidate running for the NA, announced that the functionaries of this party would try to talk today with the HR Carlos Westendorp in order to have, as she said, the punishment of the Election Appeals Sub-commission alleviated. The SNS RS would accept and recognize the results of the elections proclaimed by the OSCE and would make a full contribution to the constitution of the republic parliament, Ostoja Knezevic stated at a press conference.

"The SNSD expects a victory for the "SLOGA" coalition candidates, and that is Biljana Plavsic. However, as every other democratic party, we will accept valid results", Branko Dokic, SNSD vice president, stated at a press conference held in Banja Luka today.

2:31

The President of the SDS presidency, Dragan Kalinic, and his deputy, Dragan Cavic, talked with the HR Carlos Westendorp about the recent elections and the DA in Banja Luka today. The leaders of the SDS stressed that, together with the SRS, they would work on ensuring the future for the RS in the framework of the DA. "In that sense, we are ready to cooperate with the IC", Kalinic said.

"I firmly believe that the alternative to the DA does not

exist and that the DA is the best option for the future of the RS", Carlos Westendorp stated after the meeting.

1:05

The European Commission warned BiH that, in the future, the help of the EU in the field of commerce and cooperation would depend on respect for the existing economic and political procedures prescribed by the Union.

0:19

The Law on telecommunications of BiH entered in force by the decision of the HR from September 11, 1998. The law will be provisional until the parliamentary assembly of BiH adopts it in its prescribed form, as written in the decision of the HR. Asked to comment on the decision, Marko Pavic, Minister for telecommunications, stressed that he was not officially informed about the decision and that he did not know in what form the text of the law was adopted, i.e., whether the remarks of the RS Ministry of Traffic and Communications were respected.

2:31

The spokesman for OHR, Alexandra Stiglmayer, confirmed today that BiH would have a hymn by the foreseen deadline, November 15, 1998.

0:15

The Governor of the BiH Central Bank, Peter Nicholl, signed a contract with the British Royal Mint corporation for production of the first 10, 20, 50 convertible Fenning coins.

0:10

The second small businesses fair of the RS was opened in Doboj today.

2:30