

OHR SRT News Summary, 23 Nov. 1997

Headlines

- Polling stations in RS closed at 1600hrs
- According to most recent information more than 50% of voters voted
- OSCE estimated that elections went on without incident
- Presidential elections held in Slovenia today
- Mubarak condemns countries which provide asylum for extremists
- Similar weather forecast for tomorrow

00:20

All the polling stations in the RS were closed at 1600hrs, and technically the organisation of the elections was estimated as being positive. Representatives of the Republic Electoral Commission (REC) stated that OSCE had not approved their request for prolonging the work of polling stations after 1600hrs. Nevertheless, it is almost certain that more than 50% of voters voted. According to the estimations of the REC, the final percentage of voter response will be about 75%.

2:40

Robert Frowick, Head of OSCE Mission in BiH and Head of the PEC, said that the organisation of the elections had been good, and that the electoral results would be implemented regardless of the percentage of voter response.

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In one of Banja Luka's local communities, Lazarevo, the voting was prolonged until 1800hrs. The Banja Luka LEC expects that the percentage of voter response in this municipality will be about 70%. The voter response in Prijedor was between 60% and

70%, and all polling stations were closed at 1600hrs.

1:30

In many polling stations which SRT teams visited today, were voters who voted in the September elections, and who were not on the voters' lists for parliamentary elections. In the polling stations which were opened for voters from abroad or from the Federation, the number of voters who registered was much bigger than the number of voters who actually came to vote.

2:05

At a press conference organised by OSCE in Banja Luka today, it was emphasised that all the parties and independent candidates had had equal treatment in the pre-electoral campaign, and that there were no objections or mistakes in the technical organisation of the parliamentary elections. Johan Verheyden emphasised that there had been no incidents during the voting process. He repeated that the percentage of voter response was not relevant to the implementation of electoral results. Verheyden said that the results of the parliamentary elections should be made public after the 10th of December.

1:30