

OHR SRT News Summary, 24 Nov. 1997

Headlines

- First unofficial electoral results; block of Serb national parties led by SDS has advantage
- New Serb Parliament to be established in one month
- Representatives of Serb government supervising receipt in Vienna of ballots from abroad
- Inspection of military equipment as sign of Saddam Husein's goodwill
- Cloudy weather without rain forecast for tomorrow

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According to the first unofficial results published by the Republic Electoral Commission (REC), the SDS has taken the lead, as reported by BETA. Based on information from 45 of the RS municipalities, the REC reported that the SDS has won 31.5% of votes, followed by the Serb People's Party with 21.8%, the Serb Radical Party with 16.62 % and the Socialist Party of the RS with 12.62% of votes.

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According to incomplete information, more than 70% of voters took part in the extraordinary parliamentary elections in the RS, as reported by BETA. The REC refused to report final unofficial results for each municipality before an estimate is provided on the basis of the final unofficial results in the majority of municipalities. However, SRNA published preliminary unofficial results from 32 municipalities, according to which the SDS leads in most of those municipalities.

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Head of the OSCE office in Belgrade, Zivota de Luca, informed BETA today that 30% of RS voters registered in Yugoslavia took part in the parliamentary elections for the RS in the FRY. According to the Croatian Office for Refugees and DPs, 55% of registered voters participated in the elections in Croatia for the RS National Assembly.

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Nedo Draskovic, President of the RS REC, informed the press that 72.12% of voters participated in the parliamentary elections in the RS, according to information from 57 municipalities.

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Robert Frowick, Head of OSCE, stated today that the OHR should take over the implementation of electoral results. He emphasized that the new Serb Parliament should be established within 30 days.

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A press conference of international agencies was held in Banja Luka today. Johan Ferhajden, OSCE spokesman, stated that about 70% of voters participated in the elections. IPTF Spokesman, Alun Roberts, said that 1,850 voters came into the RS from the Federation, mainly of non-Serb nationality.

1:15

Momcilo Krajisnik, member of the BiH Presidency, said that, according to the first unofficial information, patriotic powers had won the elections. He expressed his pleasure at seeing that the current authorities had passed the exam.

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According to the Banja Luka LEC, 73.87% of voters in this municipality participated in voting. There were 79,516 ballots, 811 invalid ballots and 1,485 unconfirmed ballots. According to unofficial sources, the Serb People's Party won 38.58% of votes in this municipality. SFOR soldiers took over

ballots in the Banja Luka area today.

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President Plavsic's Cabinet issued a press release today regarding her statement to a Spanish newspaper "El Pais". The release emphasised that the President mentioned the names of Slobodan Milosevic, Momcilo Krajisnik and Aleksa Buha only as signatories of the Dayton Agreement, not while speaking about the Hague Tribunal.

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In an interview for Montenegro TV, President Plavsic stated that previously the non-participation of the RS Army in the "Equip and Train" programme was frequently cited as an example of unequal treatment of the RS and the Federation by the international community. Emphasizing that she was not an expert on military equipment, Plavsic said that the offer to participate in the programme should be taken up, but without acceptance of any conditions.

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