OHR SRT News Summary, 26 April 1999

Headlines

- The last bridge in Novi Sad destroyed; Pristina again target of the aggressors; Sombor and Valjevo bombed
- ICRC can send its workers to Kosmet, was agreed on the occasion of today's meeting Milosevic-Samaruga
- On the eve of tomorrow's session of the RS NA, numerous political activities in Banja Luka
- Zivko Radisic departed to Strasbourg for the session of the CoE Parliamentary Assembly; the delegation of the parliamentary assembly in Strasbourg as well

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU countries agreed in Luxembourg today to expand the existing regime of sanctions against Yugoslavia and reached a political agreement on banning the deliveries of oil and oil derivatives to FRY, Beta reported. At the same time, the spokesperson of the Russian Ministry for fuel and energy stated that Russia will continue shipping the oil to FRY according to the contract, in spite of embargo set by NATO, Russian media report and carries SRNA.

Bombing of civil and military objectives, with casualties and material destruction, continued. (Novi Sad, Pristina, Sombor, and Valjevo)

Milosevic told the \underline{ICRC} President Cornelio Samaruga today that he can guarantee security to the representatives of this humanitarian organization in the entire Kosmet region, but he cannot guarantee security from the \underline{NATO} bombing, Tanjug reports.

Samaruga stated at a press conference held after the meeting that he visited the three American soldiers that are

considered POWs and talked with them.

Vice president of the Yugoslav Government Vuk Draskovic advocated the presence of the international forces under UN auspices in Kosmet. Draskovic called on the Yugoslav leadership to tell the truth to the Serbian people on where Serbia stands and what it faces.

NATO strikes should be stopped as soon as possible and the ground operations of the Alliance in FRY should not be considered at all, the president of Montenegro Milo Djukanovic said in Podgorica, talking to the Russian journalists.

More than 10 people were killed, while over 30 were injured during the last attack of the <u>NATO</u> aggressors on the refugee center near Djakovica, the representative of the Association of Serbs from Croatia Milenko Budimir said.

Kosovo Democratic Initiative, the party which gathers Albanians, was always advocating peaceful solution of the Kosmet problem, through political means and in the framework of the state of Serbia and Yugoslavia, which would provide full equality of the national communities living in this Serbian province, was said today at a press conference of this party held in Pristina.

The President of the Lower House of the Russian Parliament Gennadi Seleznyov assessed in Moscow that the embargo on weapons delivery to Yugoslavia practically ceased to be valid when NATO attacked Yugoslavia and that Russia has the right to give any kind of help to the country which is exposed to the aggression, Beta carries.

The members of the illegal KLA sentenced the leader of Kosovo Albanians Ibrahim Rugova to death, TV Tirana reports.

The authorities of Kukes threatened to expel close to 1,000 refugees, Kosovo Albanians, who are located in that bordering town at the north of Albania if the <u>UNHCR</u> does not accelerate

their departure towards the south of the country, the <u>UNHCR</u> spokesperson in Kukes stated.

At today's regular NATO press conference held in Washington, Colonel Freytag confirmed that the forces of Alliance are using the ammunition filled with uranium in the attacks against FRY, SRNA reports. Freytag also said that KLA continues with guerrilla strikes. Shea assessed the situation in BiH as very stabile and stressed that he was encouraged with, as he said, more and more noticeable refusal by the Serb population to respond to the calls of the Radical Serbs and hold rallies against the intervention of NATO.

The rally of support to the people in FRY in Banja Luka is in the course. Protests throughout the world (Banja Luka, Jezero, Skoplje, Frankfurt, Strasbourg, Milan)

RS NA Speaker Petar Djokic stated today that he received again the assurances from the civil and military representative of the IC in BiH that the BiH space will not be used for the NATO aggression on Yugoslavia. After one-hour talks with General Meigs and Principal Deputy HR Klein, Djokic stated that the meeting discussed the activities of the IC in the territory of the RS, especially regarding the forthcoming donor conference. The meeting also discussed the problem of the Government. Djokic discussed this issue with the British Ambassador Hand and WB Director Rory O'Sullivan as well.

RS PM Dodik talked to the Principal Deputy HR Klein and WB Director Rory O'Sullivan, as well as to the Ambassadors of UK, Greece and Italy.

BiH Presidency Chairman Zivko Radisic and the parliamentary delegation of the RS left for Strasbourg today for a two-day session of the CoE Parliamentary Assembly.

RS NA Speaker Petar Djokic confirmed that the special session of the parliament, interrupted on March 24, is going to be continued tomorrow. Djokic stressed that he had not received a

request from the HR to postpone the assembly session.

The RS Government will hold a session in Banja Luka tomorrow and will discuss, as announced, the assembly material.

SDS press conference

SNS press conference

Principal Deputy HR Klein stated today in Banja Luka that there are rumors regarding the deliveries of oil from Croatia to the refinery in Srpski Brod. According to Klein, the deliveries of oil for the RS will not be suspended because the IC, as clarified by Klein, fully trusts the leadership that knows how to use the oil for the needs of the RS.

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