

OHR SRT News Summary, 4 February 1999

Headlines

- RS President Poplasen and BiH Presidency Chairman Zivko Radisic visited VRS General Staff HQ
- Prime minister designate Petar Djokic officially in this post after consultations within the Coalition "Sloga"
- RS PM Milorad Dodik in a working breakfast at the White House
- Assembly of Serbia supported peace negotiations on Kosovo
- A delegation for the conference in Rambouillet to be nominated tomorrow

The RS President Nikola Poplasen and the BiH Presidency Chairman Zivko Radisic talked in Bijeljina today with members of the command-operational body in the VRS General Staff HQ about the degree of combat readiness and organisation of the RS Army, as well as about plans for this year.

2:00

New prime minister designate for the composition of the RS Government Petar Djokic stated today for SRT that he would give an opinion on that proposal after consultations with the representatives of the SPRS and the Coalition Sloga. "In the next few days, I will hold consultations with President Poplasen and with other relevant political factors in RS. My personal standpoint will exclusively be related to the standpoint of my party and that of the Coalition Sloga" Djokic said.

1:13

The Coalition Sloga has concluded that President Poplasen failed again to respect democratic principles to have

consultations with all parliamentary parties in order to propose a candidate for the RS PM. The appointment of Djokic for prime minister designate is not the proposal of the Coalition, but that of President Poplasen, says the Sloga's press release signed by Biljana Plavsic.

1:02

"It has already become a practice for every trip of mine abroad to be used for such surprises. I think that President Poplasen did not have the right to do that right now, without consultations. However, that speaks about his lack of seriousness" Dodik stressed in a phone call statement for Srna.

0:28

The OHR has not changed its attitude regarding the election of the prime minister designate in the RS. Therefore, it still supports the current PM Milorad Dodik and the Coalition Sloga, the spokesperson for OHR James Fergusson stated at a press conference held in Sarajevo. According to him, the OHR will accept a prime minister designate who can obtain an assembly majority and form a Government that will be ready to cooperate fully with the IC.

0:15

The political-constitutional issues in the RS in light of the election of the new Republic Government and its prime minister designate were the subject of today's session of the RS Senate held in Bijeljina. The session was attended by 18 senators and a certain number of guests and was chaired by the President Poplasen.

1:30

The American President Clinton supported today in Washington the efforts of the RS Government in the stabilisation of peace and implementation of the DA and promised further assistance to remaining consistent to that plan, RS PM Dodik stated today to SRNA This morning, in the framework of a 7-day visit to the

USA, Dodik attended the traditional breakfast in the Hilton Hotel in Washington organised by Clinton every year on February 4 for foreign statesmen and domestic congressmen.

1:58

The House of Representatives of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly confirmed today the appointment for high functions in the BiH CoM proposed by the co-chairmen of the Council Svetozar Mihajlovic and Haris Silajdzic.

2:08

The deputies of SDS, SRS and Democratic Party for Banja Luka and Krajina, Mirko Banjac (SDS delegate) left the session of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH since, as he stressed, the election of the CoM co-chairmen is illegal and unconstitutional. The deputies of these three parties did not consider disputable the appointment of Svetozar Mihajlovic, Banjac explained and went on to say that it was the appointment of Haris Silajdzic they could not accept... Holding Zivko Radisic as the most responsible for the appointment of Silajdzic, Banjac stressed that the media in the RS are to be blamed for that, addressing critics of the SRT: "The SRT does not want to hear different opinions, does not want to hear different standpoints, does not want to hear different attitudes other than the ones that are being imposed upon them...", Banjac said. Spiric announced that he would submit the decision on the work of CoM to the Constitutional Court of BiH, and that he would consider the work of the Council, until final decision is made, unconstitutional.

2:35

The NA of Serbia today approved the participation in negotiations on Kosovo in France.

2:00

Kosovo-related news

2:34

The Ministers of Trade and Finance in the Government of Serbia, Zoran Krasic and Borisav Milacic respectively stressed today, in separate statements for SRNA, that the RS never will and can be a foreign country for FRY.

2:22

The Moslems in BiH are the ones who most support a unitary state, but when they are asked to make a political sacrifice in favour of other peoples, then they become very staunch, the HR to BiH Carlos Westendorp said in an interview to the Zagreb-based daily Vecernje list.

0:27

Rabbi of RS from Doboje, Tanjug reports, today strongly condemned the decision on acquitting Nada Sakic.

0:45

Two-day talks of the RS delegation with members of the CoE for Higher Education should give a unique standpoint on proper allocation of IC aid to RS and FBiH. The DPHR Jacques Klein, a representative of the CoE for Higher Education, representatives of WB, UNESCO, CEPES programme, Ministry of Education from RS and FBiH, universities from RS and Mostar participated in today's first session of the council held in Banski Dvor in Banja Luka

1:08