OHR SRT News Summary, 4 January 1999

Headlines

- in the Christmas message from the Serb Patriarch Pavle a remembrance -Kosovo and Metohija are a cradle of the Serb people's spirituality
- the RS President Nikola Poplasen and Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, at separate meetings, talked with the British Ambassador Graham Hand
- still opposite reactions regarding the appointment of the new RS Prime Minister designate
- the world marked by "euro" and terrorism in Israel

The Serb Patriarch Pavle and all the bishops of the Serb Orthodox Church have sent a traditional Christmas message to all Orthodox believers.

1:50

The SNSD Executive Board dismissed Brano Miljus, new Prime Minister designate, from the party last night since, as it was stated, he did not consult the party leadership for accepting the mandate.

0:15

Numerous reactions to the current situation concerning the establishment of the future RS government have been recorded today as well. The RS Prime Minister designate Brane Miljus stated today that the decision on his dismissal from the SNSD is invalid since only the Main Board of the party can make such a decision. According to Miljus, he has already held some consultations and managed to provide an assembly majority. Miljus denied some allegations that he is close to the politicians on the right side of the Drina and that they were involved in his appointment. Miljus underlined that he will do his best in order to implement Dayton and that he will act in accordance with the spirit and letter of the <u>Dayton Agreement</u>. Miljus called upon the international community to accept it as a fact and to help, for the sake of peace keeping in the RS, B&H and the whole region, the option of reconciliation and not that of quarrelling amongst parties and peoples. The reactions of the SDS, SPRS, SNSD, Coalition for the RS, Coalition for King and Homeland, as well as the reactions of some parties in the FRY to the appointment of the new RS Prime Minister designate. 7:30

Momir Malic, the Secretary General of the RS National Assembly, explained for the SRT the constitutional procedure of proposing the RS Prime Minister designate. Pursuant to Article 80 item 2 of the RS Constitution, the RS President shall propose the RS Prime Minister designate. It is a constitutional and inalienable right of the President of the Republic. However, the Constitution does not prescribe any deadlines. The Constitution only regulates that the President of the Republic is the one who makes the proposal and that the Prime Minister designate is supposed to appear before the National Assembly to present his/her programme and the candidates for his/her cabinet without any time limits. 3:10

The RS President Nikola Poplasen and Prime Minister Milorad Dodik held separate meetings with the British Ambassador to B&H Graham Hand in Banja Luka today. The issues most discussed at the meetings were the appointment of the new RS Prime Minister designate and the establishment of the new RS Government.

2:00

The main celebration of Republic Day is to be held in Brcko on January 9. 1:10 Kosovo-related news. 1:55 The RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik convened a regular session of the Government for tomorrow. The agenda consists of 17 items. 0:30 The RS Ministry of Finance explanation of the essential changes in the Law on excises and tax on trade, which entered into force on January 1 of this year. 2:00 The exchange rate of Convertible Mark, the official B&H currency, will be related in the future to both the German Mark and the European Union currency, the "euro", the B&H Central Bank stated. 2:25 News from the B&H Federation. 1:20 News from the world. 2:20