

OHR SRT News Summary, 4 November 1998

Headlines

- Continuance of the RS National Assembly session in Banja Luka
- Serbian Government and Kosovo Albanians- negotiations on Agreement proposal for Kosovo in Belgrade
- Farrand orders- accelerated return of Muslim and Croat municipal officials to Brcko
- Westendorp disappointed with the rate of return of minorities in Sarajevo

The constitutive session of the RS NA, started on Oct 29, was continued in Banja Luka. The beginning of the session, scheduled for 11:00, was postponed until 16:00 for additional consultations of the parliamentary caucuses. The Assembly leadership was elected, Petar Djokic as the RS NA Speaker (SPRS), Jovan Mitrovic Deputy Speaker (SNS), Momir Malic Secretary General (SPRS), Boro Blagojevic Deputy Secretary General (SNS), while Jovo Radic from SNSD did not win enough votes for the Deputy Speaker position. SDS proposal that Dragan Kalinic gets the Speaker's position was refused by the Nomination Commission due to which SDS and SRS members of the Commission resigned and stated that SDS and SRS would not take part in any Assembly body.

3:12

Representatives of the Serbian Government and Kosovo Albanians are negotiating, with U.S. mediation, about the new version of the Agreement proposal for Kosovo. However, in the Kosovo Albanian press, Kosovo terrorists threatened that they will deal with any Kosovo Albanian who starts negotiations about a peaceful solution in accordance with the demands of the international community.- SRNA reports.

1:03

U.S. Department of State Spokesman, James Rubin said that KLA members are present in some areas which Serb police withdrew from.

0:23

38 Serb and Muslim families returned to Jezero near Mrkonjic Grad thanks to international humanitarian organisations (ECHO) which rehabilitated these houses for the refugees.

0:47

The RS President, Nikola Poplasen, Vice President, Mirko Sarovic and Chair of the B&H Presidency, Zivko Radisic took their solemn oaths at the session.

2:13

Brcko Supervisor, Robert Farrand issued orders which demand accelerated return of Muslim and Croat officials in the Municipality of Brcko, police and judiciary to their pre-war homes.

1:30

According to information of the Ministry of Refugees of Canton Sarajevo 1469 families (2914 individuals) returned by October 9 in Sarajevo and applications have been submitted by 15586 families.- SRNA reports. The High Representative is not pleased with this information. The Office of the High Representative issued a press release which states that the High Representative recommended the European Commission to unfreeze economic aid to Sarajevo but just for projects intended for the construction of additional accommodation for returnees.

1:34

Deputy High Representative, Hanns Schumacher stated in Derventa that there is no economic aid for those who do not wish to return to their homes. He talked with the Municipal officials and refugee association representatives.

1:01