

OHR SRT News Summary, 4 September 1998

Headlines

- 26th session of the RS Government took place in BL today
- Talks on activating Canadian financial support for the RS
- Serb Patriarch Pavle's expressions of gratitude to the RS on humanitarian support for Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija
- Unlike Croat and Bosniak textbooks, there are no disputable lessons in RS textbooks
- Russian DUMA to consider Tzernomidin's re-candidature for the position of Prime Minister

The RS Government held their 26th regular session in BL today. The Government made a number of decisions promising to ensure a better life in the RS in the long run. A decision was thus made by which companies will no longer be obliged to pay contributions for health insurance. Another decision was adopted on the RS applying to the Japanese Government for resources provided as JEN credits. The session also decided to establish a commission on the improvement of cooperation with the EU.

2:06

President Plavsic met with the Head of the Canadian diplomatic mission in Sarajevo, Serge Marcoux, today. The meeting focused on the expressed willingness of the Canadian Government to provide considerable funding to assist most affected categories of the RS population. According to Ambassador Marcoux, the funding, worth over DM 3.2 million, will come as a result of earlier agreements between President Plavsic and the Canadian Foreign Minister. In addition to support for collective centres, the Canadian Ambassador announced the

implementation of two projects worth Canadian \$ 3 million, one of which will be the payment of salaries for RS teachers at secondary schools (1 million), and the second, worth \$ 2 million, will involve the extension of the RS electrical network.

2:49

Serb Patriarch Pavle today addressed a letter of gratitude to President Plavsic praising her involvement in providing 600 tons of humanitarian aid for the Serb people in Kosovo.

0:30

(Kosovo-related news)

2:41

A two day session of the RS legal working group, which was also attended by EU legal experts, aimed at finalising the business of aligning the RS Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code with the highest international standards ended in BL today. The session hoped that the draft texts would be submitted to the new BiH Parliament for their adoption after it has been voted in at the forthcoming elections. EU legal experts expressed their satisfaction at the work of the working group and at the support offered by the RS Government in the process of revision and changes to the two Codes. The final meeting of the working group has been scheduled to take place in BL within 15 days at the latest.

02:05

Prime Minister Dodik met with members of the RS Academy of Sciences and Fine Arts Presidency in BL today. The meeting discussed the way in which sciences can be used best, rather than misused for the purposes of daily politics.

1:48

The recent action undertaken to remove offending contents of RS and BH Federation textbooks has shown how positions of different ethnic communities differ on issues such as the past

war in BiH. The issue was addressed at a press conference attended by the RS Minister of Education, Nenad Suzic, his Deputy, Proka Dragosavljevic, and the Director of the RS Institute for Education and Pedagogy, Drago Krneta, in BL today. The conference explained that at the initiative of the OHR, three expert groups had been working since this March reviewing possibly offensive contents in RS and BH Federation textbooks for primary and secondary schools and confirmed that no such contents had been identified in reviewed RS textbooks. Minister Suzic refuted the possibility of common textbooks and curriculums for RS and BH Federation primary and secondary schools, but supported the idea of removing offending pages.

2:52

Speaker of the RS NA, Petar Djokic, visited the UNIS corporation in Samac today to attend a regular session of its main Administrative Board which discussed the privatisation process that is about to start in the RS. According to Djokic, an agreement was reached to undertake certain activities in the next few days to prepare a joint meeting with directors of all RS state-owned companies to give specific instructions on how to work to implement the RS Privatisation Act.

1:42

Alexander Ivanko, the UN IPTF Spokesperson, at a regular international press conference in SA today announced that the official findings of the investigation into the death of Dr. Milan Kovacevic would be published at the Hague Tribunal next Monday. Simon Haselock, OHR Spokesperson, spoke about violations of customs rules and assessed that the situation had considerably improved in BH in this regard with the beginning of implementation of common custom rules. Nicole Shulz, the OSCE Spokesperson, stated that 2,600 OSCE monitors would be arriving to Split and Zagreb tomorrow.

2:39

Alun Roberts, the UN Spokesperson for Region West, today announced that a new traffic and crime surveillance policy

would be introduced in the RS and the BH Federation shortly. Such a document, Roberts explained, has already been submitted to the respective Ministries of Interior of the RS and the BH Federation.

1:29

1. The SDS – a public tribune in Brcko
2. The SLOGA Coalition – a public tribune in Visegrad yesterday
3. The Serb Coalition for the RS – an election rally in Serb Brod yesterday
4. The Serb Movement of Renewal (SPO) – an election rally in Gacko last night attended by Vuk Draskovic
5. The Serb Radical Party – a public tribune in Novi Grad last night
6. The SNS – a public tribune in Laktasi today attended by Prime Minister Dodik
7. The SDS – an election rally in Gacko today
8. The SDS – a press conference today – Kalinic criticized SRT of inappropriate reporting on SDS election rallies
9. The SP RS – a public tribune in Ribnik this evening
10. The BH Democratic Civic Party – a press conference in Bijeljina today
11. the SPO – a press conference in Bijlejina today announcing that a decision will be made shortly on which party candidates the SPO will appeal to their voters to vote for
12. The SPO – a press statement today – appealing to all RS parties to create a Government of National Salvation after the elections
13. The Democratic Party – a press conference in Bijeljina
14. The Radical Party of the RS – a press conference in BL today
15. The Serb peasants' Party – a press conference in BL today
16. The Coalition for King and Fatherland – a press conference in BL today

17. The Serb Monarchist Union – a press conference in BL today appealing to their voters to vote for SLOGA Coalition candidates for the RS President and the RS member at the BH Presidency
18. Milosava Jakovljevic – a press conference in BL today of the only female independent candidate at the September elections