

OHR SRT News Summary, 5 April 1999

Headlines

- on the 13th day of the NATO aggression an increasing number of victims and destroyed civilian and infrastructure facilities
- announcement of the arrival of NATO "Apache" helicopters in Albania and Macedonia – an introduction to the invasion and total occupation of Kosovo and Metohija
- NATO still ignores Serb requests that the territory and air space above B&H should not be used in any way in the aggression against Yugoslavia
- numerous protest rallies against the NATO aggression throughout the RS and the world
- the RS Government held its session
- payment of pensions for February started today

On the 13th day of the aggression, NATO continued bombing civilian targets in Yugoslavia with new tragic consequences. A few civilians were killed and several dozens were wounded today. Reports from Vranje, Cacak, Belgrade, Zemun, Obrenovac, Nis, Vranje, Lucani, Gnjilane, Kosovska Mitrovica, Pristina, Raska, Sombor, Novi Sad and other towns throughout the FRY

A Contact Group meeting on the current situation in the FRY is to be held on Wednesday, April 7.

A meeting of the members of the G-8 group is to take place in Dresden on April 9-10 with the aim of considering the situation in Yugoslavia.

Follows a report on reactions and activities of international officials regarding the Kosovo crisis and the situation resulting from the NATO aggression against Yugoslavia.

Russia is able to stop the NATO aggression against the FRY but in order to do so, the President of Russia would have to urgently define the state policy on the Balkans, is the assessment of one of the Russian officials.

Report on some writings of the press throughout the world concerning the situation in the FRY.

A regular NATO briefing was held in Brussels today. Follows a more detailed report on it.

Report on a regular press conference of the British Ministry of Defence.

The former Irish Prime Minister John Bruton stated for Sky News TV that he could not see why western governments were surprised at the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo and reminded of the fact that only three days before the commencement of the NATO air campaign, the former High Representative to B&H Carl Bildt warned that if the bombing of the FRY took place, it would inevitably cause a humanitarian crisis in Kosovo.

Without any comment! Some pictures demonstrating the consequences of the NATO aggression were broadcast – scenes of killed civilians, destroyed buildings, buildings in flames, protest rallies throughout the FRY, mothers and newly-born babies in shelters...

The RTS sharply denied the claim of the NATO spokesman who said at yesterday's NATO briefing that the 1 April meeting of Milosevic and Rugova was a plagiarism, more precisely, that the two-year old RTS shots were used.

After today's Pristina meeting with the Russian Ambassador to the FRY Jurij Kotov, the leader of the Kosovo Albanians Ibrahim Rugova confirmed that he had a meeting with the FRY President Slobodan Milosevic on April 1. After the meeting in Pristina, Kotov announced the arrival of Russian humanitarian aid in the FRY.

Yugoslav Deputy PM Nikola Sainovic met with the leader of Kosovo Albanians Ibrahim Rugova in Pristina today. A joint press release was issued after the meeting.

The order for the SFOR action – mining of the railway line in the municipality of Rudo in the RS – was given to members of the German and US battalions of SFOR by the SFOR Commander to B&H, US General Montgomery Meigs himself, it was confirmed at today's meeting of General Meigs with the B&H Presidency Chairman Zivko Radisic, RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, RS Minister of Defence Manojlo Milovanovic and RS Interior Minister Sredoje Novic which was held in the SFOR HQ in Ramici near Banja Luka. Follows a more detailed report on it.

The RS Interior Ministry denied today SFOR information claiming that the RS Interior Ministry had been previously informed about the SFOR action in the municipality of Rudo.

The RS Government today continued its special session, which was convened due to the incident in Rudo. Follows a report.

Expressing condolences to the family members of the killed Tomic, a delegation of the RS Government strongly condemned that crime emphasizing that the RS will do everything in order to bring the perpetrators to justice. Afterwards, the delegation held a meeting with representatives of the local authorities of Rudo and Visegrad.

The 9th concert expressing protest against the NATO aggression was held at the Square of the Republic in Belgrade today. A similar rally was held in Podgorica as well.

Protests against the NATO aggression, at all levels, continue throughout the RS and the world. Follows a report on it.

At today's session, councillors of the Banja Luka Municipal Assembly unanimously adopted a declaration on condemnation of the NATO aggression against the FRY and support to the people of the FRY.

Students and professors of the Banja Luka Faculty of Philosophy condemned the NATO aggression today.

Report on rallies in Srpska Kostajnica, Srbac, Laktasi and Gradiska.

The RS Ministry of Science and Culture issued a press release concerning the NATO strikes against Yugoslavia. Follows a more detailed report.

Genesis Project – A Little Siren – a local humanitarian organization from Banja Luka today sent a message of support and understanding to children in the FRY.

About 1,000 people demonstrated in front of the White House against the NATO strikes on the FRY.

Regarding the NATO aggression against the FRY, Nikola Poplasen, the RS President dismissed by Carlos Westendorp, sent a letter to the FRY President Slobodan Milosevic condemning the NATO aggression and expressing support to the people of the FRY. Follows a more detailed report on it.

Report on today's SDS press conference in Banja Luka.

Regarding the tragic incident in Rudo, the B&H CoM Co-Chairman Svetozar Mihajlovic sent a letter to General Montgomery Meigs.

Zivko Radisic, the B&H Presidency Chairman, who put a moratorium on his function, met with the Greek Ambassador to B&H in Banja Luka today. The NATO aggression was condemned at the meeting.

An air raid alert was sounded again in Belgrade tonight at 20:03 hrs.

Payment of pensions for February started today.

News from the B&H Federation.