OHR SRT News Summary, 6 January 1999

Headlines

- on the occasion of Christmas holidays, the RS President Nikola Poplasen and the BiH Presidency Chairman Zivko Radisic sent greetings to all Orthodox believers
- the RS President with his associates received SFOR Commander, General Montgomery Meigs
- Clinton informed the US Congress that sanctions against the FRY will remain in force
- straining of relations between Iraq and the USA continues

The RS President Nikola Poplasen and the BiH Presidency Chairman Zivko Radisic sent greetings to all Orthodox believers on the occasion of the Christmas celebration. A report on the customs and preparations for the Christmas celebrations from Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Prijedor, Srpsko Sarajevo, Trebinje, Brcko as well as from Zagreb and Belgrade. Christmas religious services and liturgies, attended by numerous Orthodox believers, were held throughout the RS. The SNS President Biljana Plavsic sent Christmas greetings to the Serbs detained in The Hague.

15:30

The RS President Nikola Poplasen with his associates, the RS Defence Minister Manojlo Milovanovic, the Head of the RS Army General Staff HQ Momir Talic and the Advisor for Defence Issues Stanislav Galic, received the <u>SFOR</u> Commander, General Montgomery Meigs with his associates. The meeting discussed the role of the RS Army in the implementation of the <u>Dayton Agreement</u>. The Serb side disagreed with the manner of General Krstic's arrest and the way of appointing and replacing RS Army officers.

The RS President Nikola Poplasen has underlined that Brcko, in compliance with the founding principles of the <u>Dayton Agreement</u>, must be a part of the RS and that is a 49:51 ratio of the territory. As far as the new prime minister designate Brane Miljus is concerned, the RS President stated that Brane Miljus is not the outcome of his political determination. However, Miljus represents a certain kind of compromise after a failure of the Block of the SDS, SRS and the Serb Coalition for the RS to form a new government.

3:05

The new RS prime minister designate Brane Miljus has started consultations with the parliamentary parties. Explaining the concept of the Government, which he advocates, Miljus underlined that it must be a democratic government consisting of experts. According to Miljus, the government will be multiethnic and will respect the <u>Dayton Agreement</u> and the RS Constitution, Srna reports. The first consultative meeting of the new RS prime minister designate was held with the SDS vice-president Dragan Cavic. Underlining that he had received a support from Robert Barry and Richard Kauzlarich according to which he can start the procedure of forming of a new government, without any disturbances, Miljus said that he will complete the first round of consultations by January 9. Afterwards, he will request the RS NA Speaker urgently to schedule a parliamentary session. He added that he would ask party representatives to offer the new government, the members who would not deal with the politics and would not be loyal to their parties but the ones who would professionally and patriotically perform their duties. Commenting on his recent statements that he has provided an assembly majority, Miljus said that he is convinced that he will have an absolute majority. Miljus also announced that, in the next few days, he would hold meetings with Alija Izetbegovic, Haris Silajdzic and Rasim Kadic.

Kosovo-related news.

2:45

The deputies in the BiH Parliament House of Representatives should choose the BiH anthem on January 22 and to pass the Law on it. They should also discuss the laws proclaimed by the HR to BiH Carlos Westendorp on the coat of arms, citizenship, flag, telecommunications and the process of privatisation. 0:25

News from the Federation.

1:30

News from the world.

2:35