

OHR SRT News Summary, 8 March 1999

Headlines

- The RS political public supports the RS NA conclusions
- Citizens of Brcko demonstrated against the Brcko decision
- Restrained reactions in the world in terms of RS crisis solution
- J. Fischer with Milosevic – FRY still against foreign troops in Kosovo
- Growing Croat requests for third entity in BiH

After the RS NA session the Office of the High Representative issued a press release saying that the High Representative acknowledged the opinion of the RS NA regarding the dismissal of Nikola Poplasen, however the dismissal is final and irrevocable. Mr. Poplasen is not RS President any more. Any measures he can possibly undertake using the powers of his former position are void. The RS NA decision has no influence on the final outcome of the High Representative's decision since the NA has no competence to annul or change this decision. The High Representative acknowledged the RS NA decision regarding the Brcko decision. He welcomes the decision of the NA to stay engaged in interpretation and implementation of this decision. The High Representative hopes that this spirit of co-operation will spread among members of the common institutions in order to continue their valuable work.

1:23

Yesterday's RS NA session justified its work and deputies confirmed a strong sense of responsibility for positions they are taking in the RS NA.- Petar Djokic said to SRT. "I think that yesterday we showed our people, all RS citizens, that

they can believe in the system institutions that they elected in the elections. The international community is showing certain signs of understanding, but I expect this understanding to be stronger to engage certain institutions in the world which deal with these sorts of issues.”- Djokic said.

1:03

“Yesterday’s RS NA session was unfortunately held at a difficult moment for the RS, under circumstances in which is impartially to state that the RS, at least legally, in terms of arbitration decision does not exist. The course of the session and its conclusions, after a long time, finally showed full Serb national unity. I, with pleasure, can say that all decisions are acceptable to me, that they show necessary moderation but at the same time defend the national interests of the RS, all Serbs and its citizens. These conclusions represent a democratic response to an anti-democratic and illegal decision. The position of the RS NA regarding the performance of the President has to be interpreted in a way that Mr. Westendorp’s decision has no grounds, it is totally illegal, anti-Dayton, it is derived from arbitrary judgement what is co-operation which I am prepared to, and my objection to that decision is not because it was signed by Mr. Westendorp, but because it is anti-Dayton.”- Nikola Polasen said.

1:54

“Regarding the RS NA conclusions on the Brcko decision, and those conclusions are the result of RS Government efforts, I think that those conclusions provide for starting certain proceedings in which some decisions should be revised. As for the conclusion regarding the dismissal of the President it is clear that the procedure for dismissal, foreseen in the Constitution, has not been performed, but it is also clear that the RS is in a specific situation in which we have implementation of the Dayton and the High Representative in

charge for the interpretation of Dayton. I think that the Assembly, guided with this constitutional principle, has not made a good decision and it has given the chance to extreme elements in the RS, headed by the SRS to continue with demonstrations and possible riots which would now have some kind of legitimacy. SNSD considers that the RS President institution was endangered by Poplasen himself and that it is a good measure him no longer being the President. Since no other RS official has resigned the RS Government shall reconsider its resignation.”- Milorad Dodik said.

2:13

Milorad Dodik met with Brcko Supervisor, Robert Farrand and after that with Executive Board members of Brcko municipality. “We need peace in this moment most of all.”- Dodik said.

0:36

Organised by parties from the Brcko municipal assembly, citizens of Brcko protested today because of the dismissal of Nikola Poplasen and the Brcko decision.

0:17

Chairman of the SDS presidency, Dragan Kalinic said at a press conference that the RS NA consistently applied the RS Constitution by not accepting the Brcko decision and dismissal of Nikola Poplasen. “We have clearly said that if Brcko is not in the RS, and with this decision it is so, then there is no RS, and if there is no RS there is no B&H. In that case all our representatives in common institutions have to withdraw from them.”- Kalinic said. Dragan Cavic said that the Brcko decision contravenes Dayton and the Madrid declaration.

0:41

President of SRS Executive Board and acting SRS President, Mirko Blagojevic said, at a press conference, that the Brcko decision must not be implemented at any cost since it would mean the demise of the RS. SRS General Secretary, Ognjen Tadic stated his astonishment at the High Representative statements

given to the Spanish media that he was prepared to arrest Nikola Poplasen with the help of local police and, if they do not do it, then with [SFOR](#). SRS considers that the solution of this crisis is forming the government of national unity which would protect the interests of Serb people in the RS.

0:54

Petar Djokic talked with the French Ambassador to BiH, Yves Gaudeul about the current situation in the RS generated by the Brcko decision, dismissal of the President and Government resignation.

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Zivko Radisic talked with the French Ambassador to BiH, Yves Gaudeul in Banja Luka.

0:10

Brcko Supervisor, Robert Farrand reiterated, at a press conference in Brcko, that no one would be evicted if no alternative accommodation is provided.

0:27

Kosovo related issues:

- Group of women protested today in front of the Verifying mission office in Kosovska Mitrovica asking for immediate release of FRY soldier, Miljan Mitrovic
- OSCE verifiers are still negotiating with KLA the release of Miljan Mitrovic
- Javier Solana threatened air strikes against the FRY in the event of Serbs not signing the agreement
- Office of Kosovo verifying mission started work in Podgorica