OHR SRT News Summary, 9 March 1998

Headlines

Contact Group on Kosovo and Metohija: sanctions to be imposed on Yugoslavia Parliamentary delegations of the UK and the RS in Banja Luka <u>NATO</u> begin manoeuvres – to last several days 0:30

Robin Cook, British Foreign Minister and chairman at today's session of the Contact Group, stated that the Contact Group have suggested to the UN Security Council that four types of sanctions be imposed on Yugoslavia. These refer to arms procurement, a travel ban on the highest Yugoslavian officials, privatisation and the reprogramming of Yugoslavian debts with international banks. 0:45

The situation in Kosovo has not changed. The police action in the Drenica village still persists. The half-hour protest rally of Albanians in Pristina passed without incident. Robert Gelbard, American Envoy for the Balkans, will come to Belgrade to meet Yugoslav President, S. Milosevic, and convey the conclusions from the Contact Group session. He is due to visit Kosovo tomorrow.

2:00

Kinkel, Primakov and Vedrine will pay a visit to Belgrade soon. An American representative will join them but his name is still unknown. 2:15

RS Prime Minister Milorad Dodik commented on his recent visit to Austria. He met Serbs from B&H and announced the adoption of the new Law on Privatisation and the transformation of the tax system in the RS. There is general support for the measures taken by the RS Government and the RS President. I am very satisfied with the visit, the RS Prime Minister stated at Mahovljani airport on his arrival from Linz. 1:20

RS President Biljana Plavsic and Prime Minister M. Dodik spoke today in Banjaluka to the Libyan Ambassador to B&H about DA implementation, the return of refugees and eventual economic co-operation between the RS and Libya. 1:00

British parliamentary representatives had talks with the RS Government and RS NA representatives about the further democratisation of the RS. 2:00

RS Government Deputy President Djuradj Banjac spoke with business people of the RS today. Mr. Banjac informed them about the activities of the Government relating to the private sector of the economy. 1:50

The Office of the Commission for property claims and legal affairs of refugees and DPs opened today in Banjaluka. 0:30

OHR spokesperson Aisling Byrne denied claims that there were misunderstandings amongst some officials of OHR relating to the Law on CoM. The Deputy HR Hanns Schumacher presented OHR's view of the Law on CoM at a session of the CoM in Lukavica on March 5th, and that view was fully supported by the HR and Deputy HR J. Klein. 1:15

Dragoljub Kunarac, originally from Srbinje, who voluntarily surrendered to the Hague, declared that he had participated in war crimes in 1992. He stated before the Tribunal that he was guilty but denied the accusation that he had committed sexual abuse. 0:30

Aisling Byrne, OHR spokesperson, stated today that the establishment of sport associations at the levels of both Entities was completely normal and acceptable, and added that the principle one state-one team was logical. She added that the Peace Agreement stipulated this issue in a very general manner.

0:45