

# Foreign Press Office - Mostar

## MEDIA REPORTS

Ulica Kneza Domagoja bb, 88000 Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
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### **NATO Supreme Commander for Europe satisfied with visit to Croatia**

HINA

July 26, 2005

NATO's Supreme Commander for Europe, General James L. Jones, said on Tuesday he was satisfied with the talks he held with Croatian officials and that now he understood better Croatia's strategic vision and ultimate goal, accession to the European Union and NATO.

Speaking to the press before departing Croatia, Jones said the talks he held in Croatia taught him a lot about the current situation in the Balkans.

Expressing satisfaction with his visit and the warm welcome, the general said the talks were open and frank. He thanked Croatia for its contribution to NATO operations in Afghanistan and commended the engagement of Croatian troops currently deployed there.

Jones spoke to the press together with the Croatian Armed Forces Chief of Staff, General Josip Lucic.

Jones said his talks with Lucic addressed future activities, which he added would be based on closer cooperation.

Asked if Croatia was ready to join NATO, General Jones said this was a decision to be made on the political level. He added that in the meantime it was important for Croatia and NATO to cooperate and for the Croatian military to adopt NATO standards.

General Lucic said he was satisfied with the talks too, adding that he informed the NATO commander about the organisation and reform of the Croatian military.

Lucic said 126 armoured transporters were being bought in order to step up the mobility of the army. He added the talks also addressed the tasks of the air force and the navy.

Lucic said the Croatian Air Force was in a transitional phase and was currently using Mig21 aircraft. He added that Western-type aircraft would be purchased in the future.

Asked if the announcement of the purchase of new aircraft was the confirmation of media reports about the purchase of US F16 aircraft, Lucic said the Croatian Mig21 aircraft would be used by 2010.

He said it took several years to introduce a new type of aircraft and that if Croatia wanted new aircraft by 2010, the next couple of years should be used to choose the aircraft and meet all technical requirements.

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Lucic underlined that this was a political decision, adding that the aircraft that would be bought would be Western-type and compatible with NATO standards.

### **Croat and Serbs books thrown out**

Vecernji list  
By Ana Drmac

July 26, 2005

BUGOJNO – Bugojno City Library has removed books by Croat and Serb authors from its shelves. The City Library, which operates together with the cultural and sport center in Bugojno, recently received a valuable donation of books from the Federation Ministry of education, science, culture and sport.

One of the few libraries not destroyed in the war thus had the opportunity to enrich its book collection and offer new titles to book lovers.

### **Books on the street**

Some books made their way to the shelves, while books by Serb and Croat authors were simply thrown out onto the street. Books on Croatian and Serbian history and culture were being sold on the streets of Bugojno for practically nothing.

Croat returnees to Bugojno accidentally discovered this when they asked what could be expected in the matter of the Croatian elementary school in Bugojno.

It is known for sure that the books being peddled in the street were from the Bugojno library because all the books contained the library's stamp.

Croat returnees view such behavior by the library's staff as a pre-meditated attempt by SDA [Party for Democratic Action], wartime leader Dzevad Mlace and his followers, who still rule Bugojno behind the scenes, to discourage the returnees and perhaps even shut down the only elementary school that utilizes a Croatian educational plan and program in Bugojno. (Excerpt)

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### Talks on police reform end in failure

FENA

July 26, 2005

Talks between representatives of political parties on police reform in Sarajevo on Tuesday ended in failure, High Representative Paddy Ashdown said at the end of the talks.

He said that progress has not been made on Tuesday because of the lack of seriousness on the part of parties that have not sent their representatives, SNSD and SDS.

“Those who have decided that their petty opposition interests are more important than Europe will only damage themselves”, Ashdown said.

As a result those that attended the meeting directed strong criticism towards those that failed to show up and agreed that the institutional phase of reform needs to be entered as soon as possible in order to present proposals to leaders of political parties at a meeting scheduled for September 5.

However, Ashdown warned that this process will not move until those that failed to appear at the today's meeting provide written guarantees.

SDS President Dragan Cavic and SNSD President Milorad Dodik are requested to send letters stated clear commitment to entering the institutional phase of police reform.

About PDP, which was represented by Zoran Tesanovic on Tuesday, it is unclear whether they are prepared for the meeting of leaders on September 5 and PDP President Mladen Ivanic is requested to provide written confirmation that PDP is willing to move in that direction.

Participants in the meeting were informed by SDS that they intended to participate in the meeting, but that they failed to arrive because of an administrative error. Just before the end of the meeting BiH Presidency Chair Borislav Paravac appeared on behalf of SDS.

Ashdown reminded that it was agreed at Vlasic that authority for the police would be at the state level, but that an agreement on police regions was not reached at the second police meeting in Konak. It was then stated that it is up to RS parties to propose the way for resolving problems.

Several weeks ago RS Prime Minister Pero Bukejlovic proposed talks on police reform within the framework of institutions.

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In response to that proposal Tihic and Ashdown convened today's meeting in order to enter the institutional phase which should result during August in a proposal by the representatives of the authorities of maps of police regions that would be presented to party leaders on September 5.

This would allow for the proposal to be forwarded into parliamentary procedure by September 15 and BiH to start talks on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement before the tenth anniversary of the Dayton Agreement.

BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic said that police reform is the only remaining obstacle for BiH in the process of European integration.

He said that political factors in FBiH and the international community are prepared for a change of atmosphere for talks, but not the content of reforms.

Political factors in the RS must realize that it is up to them whether BiH will move towards Europe, Terzic said.

He said that today's behaviour of SDS shows that their commitment to reforms is questionable and that the request of RS Prime Minister Pero Bukejlovic for institutional talks perhaps represents a way for stalling the process.

Terzic and Ashdown are strongly opposed to all attempts to stall the process and are prepared to label those preventing the start of talks on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement in November.

### **High Representative calls on political parties to continue Vlasic process**

FENA

July 26, 2005

The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, has expressed his disappointment that today's meeting on police restructuring among political parties failed to yield clear results because some of the parties that were invited failed to attend. The aim of the meeting – which was chaired jointly by the High Representative and BiH Prime Minister Adnan Terzic – was to continue the process that was initiated at Vlasic, in order to secure a political agreement on police restructuring in the first half of September, OHR said.

The parties present at the meeting agreed to support the establishment of a working group at the government level that will draw up a proposal on which to base further negotiations among political parties. Provided this succeeds, there will be a meeting at the beginning of September in order to reach a political agreement on police restructuring to be put to the parliaments.

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Once formed, the working group will focus its work on issues that were not formally discussed at the Vlasic meeting – namely the EU requirement that regional police areas be based on functionality and not politics.

However, the High Representative said that the working group will not be able to begin its work until those parties which failed to attend – namely the SDS, SNSD and DNS – explicitly endorse the process by sending a letter to the Council of Ministers and the OHR.

“We have an agreement from those who attended the meeting. But we have not made progress because of the lack of seriousness on the part of those parties that failed to send anyone. This is very worrying given the fact that an agreement on police restructuring is a condition for starting the Stabilisation and Association process,” the High Representative said.

“Those who decide that playing small opposition politics comes before their country’s EU future cannot be a serious opposition party. In the absence of these letters there can be no further progress,” he added.

He said that he also expects a letter from the PDP clarifying the party’s position, and expressing its commitment to participating in talks in September. The High Representative said that he is not prepared to initiate talks on police restructuring in September unless the leaders of all the political parties that took part in Vlasic are present.

“It is important to maintain the Vlasic process. There is no country that has joined the EU in the past few years without forming a cross party political consensus on issues that are vital to progressing towards EU membership. We must build a consensus among political parties bearing in mind also that any proposal will have to be approved by parliaments,” said the High Representative.