

Foreign Press Office - Mostar

MEDIA REPORTS

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MEDIA REPORTS DIGEST

June 1 – 6, 2005

International community postpones planned transfer of authority to BiH institutions

Vecernji list
by Dejan Jazvic

June 1, 2005

Following the decision by the RS National Assembly to refuse fundamental EU principles for police reform, High Representative Paddy Ashdown postponed the beginning of transferring authority from the international community to BiH government institutions.

Ashdown directly placed the blame for blocking BiH's path towards the EU on the RS government, especially the leading party, SDS.

“By refusing police reform, the RS government chose isolation for RS instead of a European future for all of BiH. The RS government and SDS will have to pay the price,” said Ashdown, announcing “punishment” of those responsible.

(excerpt)

Reinhard Priebe, European Commission Director for Western Balkans

Vecernji list
By Zoran Kresic

June 1, 2005

European Commission Director for the Western Balkans Reinhard Priebe judges that the negative French vote on the EU Constitution could lead to

more strict conditions for future members joining the EU.

“No one is going to change the Solun agenda, but some countries will insist on the strict application of the Copenhagen criteria for all future members,” said Priebe.

Speaking of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Priebe said that accession will depend on the speed of reforms. He called on the government to implement police reform and wondered why there are three armies.

He warned that the current governments in the region spend too much time on “talking about the EU,” instead of dealing with how people are living and the economic and social systems.

(excerpt)

Slovenian Soft Drink Maker Radenska To Start Production in Bosnia and Herzegovina

June 2, 2005

The Slovenian soft drink producer Radenska is to move part of its production in Bosnia after signing a 1.5 million marka (\$940,500/772,000 euro) contract with Teleoptic Sarajevo, Bosnian media reported on Thursday.

Teleoptic will produce two million bottles of ice tea under the Radenska brand by the end of the year and start production of several other brands shortly, the daily newspaper Nezavisne Novine reported.

SeeNews attempts to contact Radenska officials were unsuccessful on Thursday.

Radenska plans to export part of its Bosnian output to neighbouring Serbia and Montenegro under the free trade agreement between the two countries, the

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business news website Bh Biznis reported.

The company will buy raw materials in Bosnia and import only those that are unavailable locally, according to the Bh Biznis report.

Teleoptic Sarajevo also produces soft drinks and mineral water. It is the official dealer of the German soft drink producer Sinalco for Bosnia. (SEE News)

Ashdown: Dayton needs to be changed

June 2, 2005

International Community High Representative Paddy Ashdown stated on Thursday that the Dayton Agreement “must be changed,” adding that such a task is not within his hands, but rather in the hands of local, BiH institutions. In the BiH Radio call-in shown Thursday evening, Ashdown remarked that the next challenge facing BiH is reforming the Dayton Agreement in order to create a functional state.

According to Ashdown, Dayton was successful in stopping the war, but not for building peace.

Although he didn't go into details and spoke only in principle, this is Ashdown's most open call for reform of the Dayton Agreement. (HINA)

Head of EP Delegation to Southeast Europe Doris Pack: Covic is a good leader

Vecernji list
By Zoran Kresic

June 3, 2005

The head of the European Parliament Delegation to Southeast Europe and member of the European Peoples' Party Doris Pack stated yesterday that the election of HDZ BiH president is an internal party matter not to be decided from abroad.

“It is not upon me to judge the candidates for president. It is up to HDZ BiH to elect their president. If Mr. Covic is elected as party president, he can still appear at court summonings,” answered Pack to Vecernji list's question on Covic possible being elected in spite of his indictment.

“No one is guilty until proven so,” added Pack. She continued saying that Covic “accomplished many good results, was a good leader and BiH Presidency Member.” Asked about European and German standards in such situations, Pack replied: “I know of some presidents, but not many, who were indicted. HDZ BiH will elect a new president at tomorrow's party convention. Besides Covic, the candidates are Barisa Colak, Bozo Ljubic, and Ivan Madunic.

Turn of events in Covic-Lijanovic-Tadic case

Vecernji list
By Miso Relota

June 3, 2005

The BiH Prosecution's indictment in the Covic-Lijanovici-Tadic case is fundamentally based on testimony given by the protected witness known as S-1 in documents. The documents state that this witness gave several pieces of information considered important for the process. After the defense identified the protected witness as Zoran Nikolic, a person with a dubious moral history, and after the Prosecution came to this realization, his status as a protected witness was revoked and the

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case will proceed using his real name instead of the code word S-1.

Nikolic had been working with Sarajevo attorney Dzevad Prazelj on appeals before the Constitutional Court which were promised to be accepted along with certain monetary compensation. The appeals to the Constitutional Court were submitted by Lijanovici regarding certain problems.

Sources close to the BiH Prosecution informed us that former protected witness Zoran Nikolic withdrew his cooperation in the Covic-Lijanovici-Tadic case and that he personally apologized to Jozo Lijanovic. The reason for withdrawing his first statement is allegedly Nikolic's dissatisfaction with the compensation he was expecting.

The most tragic aspect in all this is that the investigative order states that he personally gave Mato Tadic 200,000 Euros in Holiday Inn Sarajevo on September 29, 2004, while the indictment states that Jozo Lijanovic gave Tadic the money in a Mostar hotel.

Former BiH Presidency Member Dr. Dragan Covic, Constitutional Court President Mato Tadic, the four brothers Ivankovic-Lijanovic, and Sarajevo Law Professor Zdravko Lucic pleaded not guilty before the BiH State Court regarding the indictment charging them with criminal offences in the Siroki Brijeg company's operations.

Dragan Covic elected as the new president of HDZ BiH

June 4, 2005

Dragan Čović is the new president of the Croatian Democratic Community (HDZ) BiH.

Delegates at the 9th Convention of HDZ BiH in Mostar gave 283 votes to Čović and 258 to his opposing candidate, Božo Ljubić.

Candidates for the post of the HDZ BiH president were Ivan Madunić and now the former HDZ president, Bariša Čolak. However, both of them withdrew their candidature at the Convention.

New president of HDZ BiH, Dragan Čović, pointed out while presenting his program that there are three main guidelines that HDZ BiH should follow after the 9th Convention of the Party.

“Functioning of the party infrastructure from the lowest level should first of all be ensured”, Čović said, adding that the second guideline is a general discussion on restructuring of BiH on the scale of Croatia, while the third one is “inventory” of own personnel in executive and legislative power.

“To be the HDZ president is not a privilege but rather responsibility and sacrifice”, Čović said. (FENA)

Čolak: Croat people in an unequal position

June 4, 2005

President of HDZ BiH, Bariša Čolak, stated today in Mostar that even ten years after the Dayton Agreement was signed, Croat people is in an unequal position compared with two other peoples.

Dayton Agreement did a great thing, it stopped the war in BiH, but a better and more acceptable constitutional solution should be looked for BiH, Čolak pointed out at the HDZ BiH 9th Convention being held in Mostar today.

According to his words, Croat people in BiH has experienced hard undemocratic pressures for the

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last years, and is still struggling for realization of its fundamental rights and “just for the difficult position of our people in BiH, HDZ is more resolute than ever to persist in the struggle for our equality”.

Čolak listed the goals set out before the party, pointing out its persistency in the struggle for protecting the rights of Croat people in BiH guaranteed by the constitution.

“ I pointed out that cooperation of HDZ BiH in implementation of the Peace Agreement neither has ever been nor will it ever be questionable”, Čolak said, adding that all the oppositions to the processes which occurred in BiH were only the result of the conceptual differences in taking BiH. “Justification of our stands has already been shown”, Čolak said , pointing out that building up of a state of three peoples is possible only on their equality.

Čolak also pointed out implementation of numerous reforms, first of all those in economic and social sphere, judicature, defence-security, education, informing, where the party experienced hard temptations, but managed in most extent to protect interests of its people.

As for the reform of the PBS, Čolak stated that each of the three peoples in BiH should have channel in its language, adding that the party will persist in it. When speaking on the police reform in BiH, Čolak said that HDZ supports police reform which should be carried out under European standards.

According to his words, one of the most important reform in BiH in the constitutional one.

“HDZ supports a democratic, decentralized and social state of BiH, organized through at least three federal units, unburdened with that as to how they would be named. As the party we see BiH organized through three levels of power, with

clearly defined competences, namely executive and legislative power of each of them. BiH organized with two entities, for sure, has no future”, Čolak said.

Čolak said that HDZ BiH is committed to and supports both European and Euro-Atlantic integrations, adding that it will continue participating in all reform processes which bring BiH closer to the integrations.

Arrest and legal proceedings against Ante Jelavić, as well as removal of Dragan Čović from the position of BiH Presidency member was pointed out by Čolak at the 9th Convention of the HDZ BiH being held in Mostar today. (FENA)

Sacked Bosnian Presidency member elected head of main Croat party

HINA news agency, Zagreb

June 4, 2005

Mostar, 4 June: Bosnia's Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ BiH) on Saturday [4 June] elected Dragan Covic new party president at an assembly in Mostar.

Covic was nominated by the party presidency at his own insistence.

According to a press release, Covic received 283 of 544 votes. The other candidate, Bozo Ljubic, who was nominated by the party's Sarajevo branch, received 258 votes.

Former party president Barisa Colak, who was nominated by the HDZ BiH Western Herzegovina branch, scrapped his nomination before the vote, saying his decision was the result of criticism voiced today to the effect that he had poorly led the

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party.

The fourth candidate, Ivan Madunic, scrapped his candidacy too, urging his supporters to vote for Ljubic.

After the election, Covic called on the other three candidates and all who did not vote for him to join him in working for the party's benefit.

He also addressed the leader of the delegation of Croatia's HDZ, Luka Bebic, saying that without Croatia's assistance "we can't do anything in Bosnia-Herzegovina".

Bebic said earlier today that the HDZ BiH's policy would not be led in Zagreb, but in Sarajevo and Mostar.

During today's assembly, Covic was sometimes vehemently criticized, with those against his election saying it was bad for the party to be led by a man indicted for corruption. Before the vote, Covic said he was surprised by the harsh criticism.

Earlier today, the assembly heard a letter from the president of the European People's Party (EPP), Wilfried Martens, read by his envoy Wolfgang Grosruck, in which Martens said that the assembly was crucial for the HDZ BiH's future.

The HDZ BiH has applied for membership in the EPP, in which it has observer status since last autumn.

Martens said in the letter there were some people undermining the HDZ BiH's efforts, alluding to Covic. He also said that the HDZ BiH and the EPP must continue Europeanizing Bosnia and that the EPP had a reputation for overcoming big obstacles.

Martens added that Bosnia would soon be at the

EU's doors when Croatia became the Union's 28th member.

U.S. State Department official to visit Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia-Montenegro 7-9 June

June 5, 2005

US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns is scheduled to pay a visit between 7 and 9 June to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia-Montenegro [SCG] and Kosovo to hold talks on stability in the Balkans and the future of Kosovo, State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack has announced.

Burns will hold talks with respective leaders in Sarajevo, Pristina and Belgrade, representatives of international organizations, including NATO, the Organization for Security and Organization in Europe [OSCE] and the United Nations, McCormack said in a statement.

"He will talk about the US efforts in securing lasting stability in the Balkans and the region's integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions. He will also reaffirm the support for the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia [in The Hague] and emphasize the importance of arresting and handing Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic over to the Hague tribunal," McCormack said. (FENA)

Gligoric: Oil refinery in Bosanski Brod to start working around June 10

June 6, 2005

RS Minister of Economy, Energy and Development Miladin Gligoric on Monday announced that 60

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thousand tons of raw oil should arrive to the Oil Refinery Bosanski Brod from the London “Vitol” by June 10, which should allow the Refinery to work in the period of thirty days.

Gligoric said that the possible modalities of cooperation with company “Vitol” would be considered in the meantime, given the contract this company has with the Brod Refinery.

The contract with “Vitol” is in effect until the end of the year, and the RS Government is also contacting other partners abroad.

Gligoric said that they primarily wish to clear everything out with “Vitol”, i.e. redefine the contract.

Minister Gligoric added that he fully understands the dissatisfaction of the workers in the Refinery, who are demanding launch of production and better working conditions, expressing assurance that this would be achieved very soon. (FENA)

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