

Foreign Press Office - Mostar

MEDIA REPORTS

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10.7.2005

Hasan Cengic acquitted

FENA

June 29, 2005

The Trial Chamber of the Court of BiH presided by Justice Steven Swanson on Wednesday reached an acquitting verdict in the case against the delegate in the BiH House of Peoples, Hasan Cengic, who was indicted for abuse of office while performing the duty of the FBiH Deputy Defense Minister in 1996.

Interpreting the verdict, Justice Swanson said that defense did not prove that Cengic on August 14, 1996 breached his official competencies and acquired illegal benefits in the amount greater than 10.000 KM by authorizing the Bosnian Investment Organization (BIO) for production of arms, explosives and ammunition.

The Court took the stand that the controversial document gives BIO an approval for registration for production of arms, explosives and ammunition, but does not directly authorize them to produce anything, because this approval would not be sufficient without the other authorizations.

The prosecutor did not present any other basis to prove that Cengic breached his official authorizations, which was the key aspect of the indictment, said Justice Swanson.

The prosecution has the right to appeal the verdict in the period of 15 days, and Cengic's passports will be returned to him. The costs of the process will be paid from the BiH Budget.

Hasan Cengic said that the Court has confirmed his innocence, and regarded the process as politically motivated.

House Resolution 199 passed in the United States House of Representatives

FENA

June 29, 2005 - The Congress of North American Bosniaks is very pleased to announce that on June 27, 2005, the United States House of Representatives passed a resolution (H. Res. 199 sponsored by Congressman Christopher Smith and Congressman Benjamin Cardin) commemorating the 10 year anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide. The resolution was passed with overwhelming majority of 370 - YES votes, 1 - NO vote, and 62 - ABSENT .

The resolution is a bipartisan measure commemorating July 11, 1995-2005, the tenth anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre in which almost 8,000 men and boys were meticulously and methodically separated from their daughters, mothers, sisters and wives and then killed by Serb forces, buried in mass graves and then re-

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interred in secondary graves to cover up the crimes. Srebrenica fell to invading Serb forces on July 11, 1995 which at the time had been declared a UN "safe area" under the protection of the international community. The Srebrenica massacre was the worst genocidal atrocity in Europe since World War II.

The resolution states that "the policies of aggression and ethnic cleansing as implemented by Serb forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 and 1995 meet the terms defining the crime of genocide in Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, created in Paris on December 9, 1948, and entered into force on January 12, 1951." (Excerpt)

BiH Croat deputies obstruct adoption of broadcasting bill

HINA

June 29, 2005

Croat members of the upper chamber of the Bosnian parliament on Wednesday [29 June] obstructed the adoption of a bill on a public broadcasting system, citing the need to protect a vital national interest.

The bill has passed the lower chamber of parliament, and the European Union insists on its adoption.

The bill provides for establishing a public broadcasting corporation at state level, along with public broadcasting services at entity levels.

Croat deputies in the lower chamber of parliament also rejected the bill, demanding that three ethnically-oriented broadcasting channels be set up. They argued that this was the only way to protect the linguistic, cultural and national identity of the Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The matter will be settled by the Constitutional Court, which will take between three and six months. This might prevent the country from meeting the conditions set by the European Commission to start Stabilization and Association talks.

Croatian president, BiH Croat delegation discuss refugee return

HINA

June 29, 2005

Croatian President Stipe Mesic on Wednesday [29 June] received a delegation of the federation of BiH Croat associations, the Office of the President said in a press release.

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The federation, consisting of 33 associations, advocates the return of BiH Croat refugees to their pre-war homes and calls for the creation of conditions that would ensure equal status for the Croats in all areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

BiH Croat representatives complained that the return process was slow, particularly in the Serb entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska [RS], and that the international community was applying double standards to the detriment of the Croats.

They said that the structure of Bosnia Herzegovina, laid by the 1995 Dayton peace agreement, should be changed and that the country should be reorganized on a cantonal basis. They asked President Mesic to use his position and authority in the international community to help improve the position of the Croats in BiH.

Mesic said that the present, unacceptable position of the Croats in Bosnia Herzegovina was the consequence of mistakes and failures made by Croatia and BiH Croat leaders. He promised to bring attention to the position of the Croats in Bosnia Herzegovina in an appropriate manner and ensure that they had equal status in all parts of the country.

Mesic called on all Croats in Bosnia Herzegovina to make maximum efforts in order to change the conditions they live in.

CIA Director visits: Stop drug channels

Vecernji list
By Miso Relota

June 29, 2005

Director of the United States' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Porter Goss arrived in Sarajevo last week for a one-day visit and briefly met with the head of the BiH Intelligence and Security Agency [Obavjestajno-sigurnosno agencija – OSA] Almir Dzuvo.

Vecernji list learned from sources close to intelligence and security circles in BiH that CIA director Porter Goss visited BiH after first stopping in Albania and Kosovo. Vecernji list learned that Goss visited BiH, Albania, and Kosovo in order to resolve the problem of drug transportation from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran via Turkey, Kosovo, and BiH towards the west.

The CIA Director warned his colleague in OSA that BiH must undertake maximum efforts in order to cut off the so-called Balkan drug route if BiH intends on joining Euro-Atlantic integrations.

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During the last fifteen years countries in our region have become fertile ground for moving drugs from the east towards the west. The strongest channel is the so-called “Albanian connection,” going from Albania, Macedonia, and Kosovo via BiH into western countries. A part of this channel goes through Skadar Lake towards northern Montenegro and into Trebinje in Republika Srpska.

The reasons for this are poorly guarded borders. Skadar Lake is not even guarded by a border police patrol at night.

A report by UNMIK and KFOR officials states that Kosovo has in recent times become a drug trade center. The existence of laboratories for developing and producing narcotics has been confirmed. (Excerpt)

Related articles:

CIA chief gave BiH list of 900 Al-Qa’ida members - analyst

SRNA

June 28, 2005

BELGRADE - Darko Trifunovic, a representative of the Washington-based [NGO] International Strategic Studies Association, has said that well-informed sources maintain that CIA [Central Intelligence Agency] director Porter Goss recently brought a list of 900 names to Sarajevo in connection with the Islamic fundamentalist network.

Trifunovic told SRNA that Goss did not recently come “to Sarajevo for a surprise tourist visit”, but to hand over a list of some names to the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities, because “clearly, nothing has been undertaken to prevent and halt the Islamic fundamentalist network which is widespread in Bosnia Herzegovina.”

Trifunovic could not say precisely what this was about, but he had heard from some of his colleagues that the CIA chief came with a list of about 900 names which have to be analysed urgently.

”I assure you there is no messing about with Porter Goss. He is a former CIA operator and has the full confidence of US President George Bush,” Trifunovic added.

He pointed out that [former] congressman Porter Goss is someone who headed the intelligence committee of the US Congress and who together with the US Senate’s intelligence committee in 2002 concluded that two

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terrorists who were members of the Army of Bosnia Herzegovina took part in the attack on the USA on 11 September.

According to Trifunovic, the CIA and other [intelligence] services have information on Al-Qa'ida, not just in Bosnia Herzegovina, but in Kosmet [Kosovo-Metohija] and other places. He emphasized that certain congressmen are asking for a change in US policy towards the Balkans, as it can clearly be seen that US policies do not correspond with information on the ground.

CIA director makes "unannounced visit" to BiH capital - daily

HINA

June 26, 2005

SARAJEVO - Porter Goss, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), on Saturday [25 June] arrived in Sarajevo for an unannounced visit, and held talks with the director of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Intelligence and Security Agency (OSA), Almir Dzuvo, the local daily Dnevni avaz reported on Sunday.

The visit of the CIA director to Bosnian capital was not confirmed by any official source, but the Bosnian daily said that this information was checked and true.

The paper carried on its front page a photograph of the US military plane by which Goss flew to Sarajevo from Tirana where he stayed on Thursday and Friday.

The Albanian capital of Tirana hosted a meeting of the directors of regional and European intelligence agencies.

According to the Dnevni Avaz daily, the CIA director stopped for a few hours at the Sarajevo airport and the talks with Dzuvo were held there.