

Foreign Press Office - Mostar

NEWS BULLETIN

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Douglas Davidson, Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH, speaks with „Dnevni Avaz“

Dnevni Avaz
By S. Skutelic

June 19, 2005

BiH rightfully seeking to try war criminals domestically

Brioni Declaration over-ambitious * It is time for politicians to start making agreements without assistance from the international community

Douglas Davidson, Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH, in a conversation with “Dnevni Avaz,” points out that, along with BiH officials, he is also disappointed that the declaration on regional justice cooperation for war crimes trials at the recently held Brioni conference remained unsigned. Meeting at the conference were justice ministers of Croatia Vesna Skare-Ozbolt and BiH Slobodan Kovac, as well as SaM Minister for Human and Minority Rasim Ljajic

“However, we must admit that the declaration was over-ambitious. I am happy that ministers from these three countries sat down together and if we consider that politicians with different expectations and wishes sat down at a single table, such an outcome was to be expected,” stated Davidson.

Nothing overnight

The request by BiH representatives to try war criminals in the country where the crimes were committed was denied by representatives from SaM and Croatia, who based their position on their respective constitutions which do not allow them to extradite their citizens.

“I am familiar with regulations in European laws that call for facing trial in the territory where the crimes were committed, which is logical. That is why I think the BiH Government rightfully insists on trying crimes committed in BiH and that should be the goal of the process, which cannot be achieved overnight,” highlighted Davidson.

Time for independence

He emphasized that OSCE does not wish to dictate the outcomes of the process, because it is time for prosecutors, judges, and ministers to begin discussions, without the assistance of international organizations. (Excerpt)

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Croatian Anthem Played at Bosnian Federation Army Oath-Taking Ceremony

BHTV1

June 19, 2005

[Presenter] At the oath-taking ceremony of the 40th class of recruits of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation Army yesterday in Capljina, the anthem of the Republic of Croatia was also played. By having another country's anthem played, Federation Defense Minister Miroslav Nikolic has ignored the warning issued by Bosnia-Herzegovina Defense Minister Nikola Radovanovic and several other high-level officials that the protocol for the oath-taking ceremony should be amended. Nikolic said that he does not believe playing the Croatian anthem is contrary to local laws because, according to him, the anthem had existed even before the foundation of the Croatian state and is the anthem of all Croats.