

Foreign Press Office - Mostar

NEWS BULLETIN

Ulica Kneza Domagoja bb, 88000 Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Tel/Fax: +387 36 324 491 email: fpo@caausa.org



U.S.: House of Representatives also adopts resolution on Srebrenica

FENA

June 28, 2005

The House of Representatives of the US Congress adopted a resolution requesting that the massacre of 8.000 Bosniaks in Srebrenica in July 1995 be defined as genocide and that all those responsible for war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity from the region of former Yugoslavia be arrested and brought before the Hague Tribunal.

In the resolution, adopted on Monday evening, similar to that adopted by the Senate last week, the House of Representatives paid respects to thousands of innocent victims from Srebrenica, as well as those killed during the conflict and genocide in BiH.

The document requests that the policy of aggression and ethnic cleansing, blamed on the Serb forces in BiH, with the support of the Yugoslav authorities, be defined as genocide in accordance with article 2 from the Convention on preventing and sanctioning genocide.

It also states that it is in the national interest of the USA that those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and violations of the Geneva Convention be held accountable for their actions and that all those indicted by the Hague Tribunal need to be arrested and transferred to that court without any delay.

The resolution, proposed by Republican Christopher Smith and Democrat Benjamin Cardin, states that a part of the responsibility for the fall of the UN safe haven, which was followed by the mass execution of Srebrenica men and boys, lies with the UN and its members "because they have not taken decisive and timely action that would be proportionate to the danger".

Sarajevo: Ivo Miro Jovic takes position of BiH Presidency chair

FENA

June 28, 2005

Ivo Miro Jovic officially took over the position of BiH Presidency Chair from Borislav Paravac at a formal BiH Presidency session in Sarajevo on Tuesday. He will hold this position for the next 8 months.

Taking this post Jovic said that he views this act not only as a constitutional commitment, but also as a symbol of equality. Jovic intends to perform his duties in accordance with the law and "to the benefit of our country BiH and all its peoples and citizens".

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He announced that the BiH Presidency would strongly support the completion of the defense reform process.

However, Jovic stressed that there are serious difficulties in the restructuring of the police system. He is confident that this is no more than a brief weakness and that this process cannot be stopped.

Commitments of BiH towards the ICTY have been generally accepted, but there are still not results on the issue of arresting Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, which has been set by the international community as a condition for accession to the Partnership for Peace, Jovic aid.

Jovic said that much of his efforts in the next eight months would be directed at fighting for ensuring the equality of all peoples and citizens. In this respect he wishes to provide all citizens an education system in accordance with European standards and in the mother tongue, which also needs to be ensured in the media.

About the past eight months Borislav Paravac said that the BiH Presidency performed its duties during that period, including intensive activities in the field of foreign policy.

During that period the BiH Presidency appointed 27 ambassadors and provided approval for 15 ambassadors. It ratified 30 international agreements, 36 decisions on starting activities on reaching international agreements, 47 decisions on accepting international agreements...

Paravac said that the participation of BiH in numerous important international gatherings and events, as well as official visits to several countries, are a significant indicator of international affirmation of BiH.

During this period the BiH Presidency also reached a decision on sending a UXO disposal unit to Iraq making its contribution to the resolution of crisis situations in the world, Paravac said.

Croat parties meet in Mostar

FENA

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The Croat Democratic Union (HDU) organized the fourth meeting of Croat parties in Mostar on Monday.

This meeting of Croat parties has shown that their positions on constitutional changes in BiH have moved closer. A joint position of all Croat parties on constitutional changes concerning the internal structure of BiH could be expected at one of the next meetings.

They concluded to employ institutional, democratic methods, not excluding the possibility of a new international conference for reaching new constitutional solutions, in order to improve the position of Croats in BiH.

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Countries that signed the Dayton Peace Agreement, especially Croatia, also need to be involved in that process.

HDZ will host the next meeting of Croat parties in August.

Bosnia protests at Serbia and Montenegro foreign minister's secession remarks

SRNA

June 28, 2005

Bosnia and Herzegovina's ambassador to Belgrade Tomislav Leko is concerned and displeased with Serbia-Montenegro Foreign Minister Vuk Draskovic's statement in which he linked the possible independence of Kosovo with the possible secession of the [Bosnian] Serb Republic.

Leko said in a meeting with Serbia-Montenegro Deputy Foreign Minister Momir Udovicki that Serbia-Montenegro was one of the signatories of the Dayton agreement which guaranteed the integrity and international legitimacy and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Foreign Ministry said.

Udovicki said he believed that Minister Draskovic's statement did not infringe upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but that it was intended as a warning against a possible precedent set by the alteration of internationally recognized borders.

According to Draskovic's position, as interpreted by Udovicki, the independence of Kosovo-Metohija and such an alteration of borders could destabilize the entire region and halt positive processes.

The Serbia-Montenegro deputy foreign minister recalled Draskovic's statements affirming the principle of mutual cooperation and the building of friendly and partnership relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Udovicki stressed that good relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina were one of Serbia-Montenegro's key foreign policy priorities.