

Foreign Press Office - Mostar

MEDIA REPORTS

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Sarajevo: BiH State Court delays debate in “Croat self-rule” case

FENA

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The Trial Chamber of the Court of BiH, presided by Justice Pietra Spere, on Tuesday issued the decision to postpone for July 8 the main proceeding in the “Croat self-rule” case, in which Ante Jelavic, Miroslav Prce and Dragan Curcic are held accountable.

The decision on postponing the continuation of trial was issued at request of Jelavic’s attorney, Josip Muselimovic, who said that his client could not follow this trial due to the dynamic of the other case against him before the BiH State Court.

This refers to the procedure in the case “Hercegovacka Bank”, which is in the phase of questioning the defense’s witnesses.

State Prosecutor John McNair said that the Prosecution would accept the request for delay of debate under the condition that defense does not launch the issue of violating any right regarding the lateness of the procedure, which was accepted by the attorneys of Jelavic, Prce and Curcic.

In the “Croat self-rule” case, former BiH Presidency Member Ante Jelavic, former FBiH Defense Minister Miroslav Prce and Dragan Curcic are held accountable for undermining the military capability of the Armed Forces and abuse of office.

Croats becoming simply – Bosnians

Slobodna Dalmacija
By Stjepan Jurkic

June 14, 2005

It is not by accident that the center of strategic, geopolitical, tactical and daily political solutions of the Bosniak SDA and Croat HDZ conventions is equally focused on definitively resolving the question of (de)constituting BiH Croats. The solution can only be found in two opposing, already somewhat attempted processes: Bosniaks will either deconstitute BiH Croats into a national minority, or BiH Croats will transform themselves from a constituent people into – a BiH nation.

Namely, from the SDA convention program conclusions and statements by the new-old SDA president Sulejman Tihic (In Mate Dakovic’s “Telering”), it is clear Bosniaks have hegemonistically decided to fully implement their new-old doctrine on the unilateral creation of an artificial “Bosnian identity.” The fact remains

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that they can impose such an artificial identity only through PBS TV and educational indoctrination, and then only in the Federation and only upon Croats; certainly not upon Serbs in the RS.

People and nation

Therefore, the undeniable purpose of such a unilateral method and concept, which constitutionally illegal in a trilateral and triethnic BiH with three autochthonous identities, is the destruction of BiH Croat national identity and integrity, as the fundamental component of Croat constitutional constituency in BiH. Accordingly, the ultimate strategic goal is – *de facto* deconstruction of BiH Croats in the Federation and then *de iure* at the state level.

All this is possible because Bosniaks have, in contrast to Croats, already constructed according to a super-party principle a nationally dominated political, institutional, intellectual, media, educational, and cultural infrastructure in the Federation and have transformed themselves from a constituent people in BiH into the structural BiH nation.

Serbs also have a similar super-party (infra)structure in the RS. Thus, no one can or dares even to think about questioning their constituent rights and needs.

These concrete examples of Bosniaks and Serbs in relation to BiH Croats best illustrate and define the terminological, practical and status difference between a constituent “people” and (constituent) “nation” in BiH. Very simplistically, a people consists of a given number of persons and politicians; a nation in addition includes social and technical experts, intellectuals, journalists, scientists, academics, national institutions, media and TV, who, among other things, jointly form the national public opinion. Therefore, the essential factor for enjoying equality and the status of a BiH constituent people is precisely the transformation of a people into a super-party structured nation. The same applies for BiH Croats.

It is a fact that the international community, for a lack of a long-term and rational solution, ideas, and initiatives, blindly supports the irrational Bosniak concept. And it will continue to support it – until someone finally offers them a rational and logical concept for BiH and national equality in BiH. On one else in BiH or the world has either the interest or will, or can, offer such a concept – except BiH Croats.

As it seems, the last HDZ convention did not offer a strategy, concept or answers to these open questions of national interest, or to the concept of the artificial SDA “Bosnian identity.” Namely, it is quite clear that we need much more than party infrastructure and rhetoric in order to achieve true equality of Croats in BiH. With or without constitutional reform. (Excerpt)

British creating a “Balkan Union”

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The books “President (Against Falsification and Ignorance)” and “Stalemate in Bosnia and Herzegovina (A Contribution to Current and Future Political Thought),” by Zdravko Tomac and Bozo Zepic, respectively, were presented in Vitez yesterday. The presentations were organized by Vitez municipality and the local chapter of Croatian Cultural Society Napredak.

“Dr. Tomac has stood up against falsifying the truth about recent Croatian history, against so-called de-Tudjmanization and criminalization of the Homeland War and Croatian state,” said Dr. Zepic, highlighting Tomac’s message that Tudjman and the Homeland War can best be defended by the truth, which is what the book “President” does.

Addressing the audience, Tomac stated that “the battle for the past is also a battle for the future.” And recent Croatian history is being systematically falsified, Croat leadership is being criminalized (criminal organization), as is the Homeland War (there never should have been a war), and the very state of Croatia. Such actions serve to balance the guilt (Tudjman and Milosevic) and divide responsibility as a precondition for creating a Balkan union made up of the former Yugoslav republics, without Slovenia and with Albania.

Such a strategy is very dangerous and it is not clear whether it can be prevented, according to Tomac. British strategists have always sided with the Serbs and purposefully obstructed German and other political influence in the Balkans and Southeast Europe.

However, Tomac is concerned with those in Croatia who serve such a policy. He compared Ivica Racan’s past statement that England is Croatia’s strategic partner with the possible partnership between a cat and mouse. Ivo Sanader is also constantly committing mistakes, slave-like and inferior moves. In terms of English motives, these are reviving the Chetnik movement, praising Tito and idealizing the former regime, attempts to organize joint sport and other associations, huge publicity over Bijelo Dugme (White Button) concerts. The English strategy receives support from the media (Latinica), statements by certain Croat politicians (Vesna Pusic, Milorad Pupovac, Ivo Banac), and several testimonies at The Hague (“citizen Stipe Mesic”).

Tomac considers Dr. Bozo Zepic one of the most prominent politicians in BiH, even though that is not his vocation.

“Professor Zepic is one of the rare few who strategically thinks about BiH and offers a way out from the difficult reality,” said Tomac. And that solution is a new international conference on BiH, because the country is currently in a stalemate.

Namely, in his book “Stalemate in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” Zepic argues that BiH can only be structured as a state with three republics, or by eliminating the current two entities. However, it is unrealistic to expect a solution to arise from the three BiH political groups, without mediation by the international community. On the

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other hand, it is unclear how interested the international community is in resolving the issue. Not enough, claim Tomac and Zepic.

U.S. Ambassador Douglas McElhaney

ONASA News Agency

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US Ambassador in BiH Douglas McElhaney said in an interview with the daily Dnevni Avaz that BiH is witnessing a crisis of the authorities when it comes to the Council of Ministers.

"This is something that happens everywhere in the world. People are appointed, released of duty, ongoing political debates of opposed sides. The BiH authorities have laws and procedures which must be respected in order to resolve the situation. The responsibility is on the Council of Ministers and the state parliament. I'm convinced that they will resolve that," McElhaney said.

Responding to the question of whom he considers the BiH foreign minister, giving that Mladen Ivanic has been released of duty, McElhaney said that if wanting to contact someone, the Council of Ministers will have to say whom he should contact.

"Domestic authorities must resolve the issue who is the foreign minister. If I need to contact someone, the Council of Ministers will have to tell me who that is. I do not think that I should interfere in the issue. The responsibility is on the BiH authorities elected by its citizens."

Interview: Zlatan Luburic, head of the top insurance company in BiH

Vecernji list
By Zoran Kresic

June 14, 2005

Croatia Osiguranje (Croatia Insurance Co.) last year held on to its top post in the BiH insurance business. Croatia Osiguranje received the prestigious award Crystal Prism for best insurance provider and, according to data from the Office of Supervision, their payments for compensation are meticulous.

In 2004 the company's portfolio, under majority ownership of Croatia Osiguranje in Zagreb, increased its share of life and property insurance, which speaks to the company's stability.

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“Although the new package of legal regulations was supposed to bring some order to the insurance industry, that has not yet happened due to incompatibility with other regulations. I am not satisfied with the fact that no one from the insurance field participated in drafting the law. I would be happy if BiH adopt any European insurance law. However, there are good things in the new law, such as unification of the insurance market in BiH.

VL: Are you prepared for the new market?

LUBURIC: Certainly. We have prepared a serious market entry into RS. Honestly though, because of non-compliance with the premium system and other anomalies, it will be difficult to do business there. That is why we will have to go with double taxation.

VL: Do you have another plan for entering the RS market? Perhaps the purchase of an insurance company there?

LUBURIC: The new law puts many insurance companies in an uncomfortable position because it calls for eight million marks as basic capital. That will force many companies out of business, thus consolidating the market. As far as our possible acquisitions, nothing is out of the question.

VL: Although you claim you are the top company, Croatia Osiguranje did not receive a single contract from federal and state institutions last year. Is this your fault or...?

LUBURIC: This country has plenty of powerful lobbying, not only in the insurance field, which takes advantage of such a chaotic situation. Croatia Osiguranje can only function in an ordered system. Not a single ministry is insured with Croatia Osiguranje even though we are the best.

VL: Is the problem then with the name “Croatia”?

LUBURIC: Our name is a recognizable brand to all those who appreciate quality. It is unfortunate that we need to exert twice as much effort as other companies. Their factious behavior towards Croatia lies in the political milieu of this country.

VL: Are you blaming the current government?

LUBURIC: Let me just give one example. We offered a certain ministry accidental insurance for 600 employees. The contract was awarded to a company offering a premium payout three times smaller than us. We offered 25,000 in case of invalidity, but it was not accepted. (Excerpt)