

Foreign Press Office - Mostar

MEDIA REPORTS

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



20.6.2005

Views of FBiH government and Aluminij harmonized

FENA

June 16, 2005

At this afternoon's meeting in Mostar a Task Force of the Federation BiH Government and representatives of Aluminij agreed to all elements of the Proposal for Starting Position for an Agreement on Solution of Open Questions and Acceleration of Privatisation of Aluminij – the FBiH Government Public Relations Office informs.

The harmonized proposal of this document will be forwarded to the FBiH Parliament and the Shareholders' Assembly of the Aluminij for verification and giving consent for conclusion of the Agreement. It is the document that got the support of the FBiH Government earlier and refers to the solution of the social status of 3413 employees of the Aluminij, and to the definition of basic suppositions for the privatisation of the Company.

The federal Prime Minister Ahmet Hadzipasic and the general manager of the Aluminij Mijo Brajkovic have expressed their satisfaction that, thanks to the efforts of Aluminij workers who had repaired the plants and started the production in post-war conditions, all pre-war workers will be indemnified and the Aluminij brought to a stage acceptable for a strategic partner.

Funds for HVO weren't part of Federation budget

Vecernji list

By Zoran Kresic

June 16, 2005

During the trial against former BiH Presidency Member Ante Jelavic, former Federal Prime Minister Edhem Bicakcic denied allegations that funds sent from Zagreb for BiH Croats were part of the Federation budget. Bicakcic is the highest ranking Federation official to testify thus far in the Hercegovacka banka case.

Jelavic was defense minister for one year during the time Bicakcic was prime minister. The testimony given by Bicakcic refutes the basis of the indictment compiled by Canadian prosecutor John McNair, who heads the special unit for organized and business crime and corruption, and who already lost his first significant case against former BiH Interpol chief Asim Fazlic. (Excerpt)

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FTV's attack on Herzegovina

Vecernji list

By Miroslav Vasilj

June 16, 2005

Federal television (FTV) sent out some 80,000 bills during the last ten days, mostly to Croats living in the area covered by HT Mostar, confirmed the FTV billing department. The station claims that the adoption of the PBS law just happened to coincide with sending out bills and that it has nothing to do with political pressure by FTV.

“We are responsible for following the law and the law clearly states that every citizens owning a radio or television receiver must pay for television usage regardless of whether they like the program or not,” stated Mahmut Jaganjac, deputy director in the FTV billing department.

We learned that the bills rained down on Herzegovina yesterday, while disappointed Croats argue that the law is discriminatory and that they will not pay for something that destroys the Croatian language.

“All international conventions, which are above the law, guarantee us the right to media in our mother tongue. I will never pay for television usage when that same station insult my people, which creates a new hybrid language, and which has nothing to do with Croats,” states one disappointed gentleman from Mostar who received his bill yesterday. He argues this is pressure from FTV coinciding with the effort to establish a Croat television channel.

Croats complain about the FTV program and state PBS program because they ignore the Croatian language, culture and events throughout BiH. Furthermore, a small number of employees are Croat (12%) and the broadcast signal does not reach some areas with a Croat majority. A large number of Croat politicians have also stated that in spite of the law they do not wish to pay the television usage fee. (Excerpt)