

# Foreign Press Office - Mostar

## MEDIA REPORTS

Ulica Kneza Domagoja bb, 88000 Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
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June 13, 2005

### **Reaction: Ivanic on Terzic's decision to accept his resignation**

FENA

June 7, 2005

BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic on Tuesday afternoon told Fena that he had met with BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic at 14:15 hrs and that he did not tell him anything about his intent, only to publicly announce that very intent 45 minutes later.

Ivanic added that "such a degree of human and political cowardice" was unthinkable to him.

"Regarding his intent, I wish to state that the resignation was submitted exactly seven months ago for very different reasons and that it is very clear to the BiH public that it was not current since the Neum meeting. Thus, Terzic did not have the possibility to accept that resignation because it practically did not exist since that meeting", said Ivanic, who is traveling to Cordoba to participate in the Third OSCE Conference on Anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance.

He added that Terzic can remove him, that this is his legitimate right, but that he must have compliance of the BiH Parliament for this.

"I will be BiH Foreign Minister and Deputy Chair of BiH Council of Ministers, because this is the legal situation, as long as the Parliament decides differently and I will not accept that part that refers to excluding Mr. Branko Dokic and myself", underlined Ivanic.

Ivanic added that it is clear that "a minister must do his job until another minister is appointed in his place".

BiH Council of Ministers Adnan Terzic on Tuesday said that he signed a decision to accept the resignation of BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic, which he had submitted in December last year.

### **Sarajevo: Jovic and Tihic meet Burns**

FENA

June 7, 2005

Members of the BiH Presidency Ivo Miro Jovic and Sulejman Tihic, together with BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic and Foreign Affairs Minister Mladen Ivanic, met in Sarajevo today a US delegation led by Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns, the BiH Presidency stated.

Jovic used the opportunity to thank the American people and Government for all they have done and continue to do for BiH. He also informed the US delegation about reform processes in BiH, especially in the field of

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defense.

Tihic again emphasized the good and friendly relations with USA and the need for their political, military and economic presence in BiH.

“I respect your foreign policy and this is why we shall continue to be present in your country, including our arrival to Srebrenica on July 11. When you capture Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic you will enter the avenue towards NATO. From Sarajevo we are heading for talks in Pristina and Belgrade”, Burns told BiH officials.

The two sides agreed that BiH, as a young country in the process of building a just peace, received great understanding and help of the US government.

Members of the BiH Presidency informed Ambassador Burns about the decision of the BiH Presidency on the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Dayton Agreement, as well as the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the crime in Srebrenica.

For BiH to become a democratic, civic and developed society it needs to complete reform process, accelerate economic reconstruction, continue full cooperation with the ICTY, disrupt the network supporting indicted war criminals and open regional economic cooperation and trade without ethnic divisions, was concluded at the end of this friendly exchange of views in Sarajevo today, the BiH Presidency stated.

### **Ministry secretary to perform duties of minister**

FENA

June 7, 2005

BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic on Tuesday reached a decision to accept the resignation of BiH Foreign Affairs Minister Mladen Ivanic, the BiH Council of Ministers' Public Relations Department stated.

Until the appointment of the new Foreign Affairs Minister is confirmed Ministry Secretary Adnan Hadzikapetanovic will perform the duties of the Minister, was stated in the decision.

(Fena)

### **Terzic: Ashdown did not have another option but to appoint Novic as director of SIPA**

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BiH Council of Ministers Chair Adnan Terzic on Tuesday said that the High Representative did not have another option but to appoint Sredoje Novic as Director of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA), given that Novic was the candidate with the highest score in the legal procedure.

“The High Representative here was not in position to respect the arrangements between the political subjects, as we had in this case, but to respect the law, and the law clearly states that Novic is the first on the rank list and this is why the High Representative was forced to appoint him as Director of SIPA”, Terzic told a press conference.

Terzic added that he was forced to ask the High Representative to make this appointment because SIPA did not have anybody to manage it legally since April 23.

“My associates and I did not manage to appoint the director, deputy director and administration of SIPA, and I had to give up on my key principle, and this principle is that the BiH authorities, in this case the Council of Ministers, make decisions, and not the High Representative. This is why I asked the High Representative to make this decision, and he made it”, explained Terzic.

Terzic said that he, as the Council of Ministers Chair, could not allow jeopardizing of the basic principle he imposed when assuming this function, and that is – BiH authorities are running this country, making appointments and issuing laws. He said that now when this has happened, somebody must answer.

“Thus, today I have signed the decision in which I accept the resignation of my deputy and BiH Foreign Minister Mladen Ivanic, which he submitted in December last year because his obstruction has brought me in position to request from the High Representative to do our job for us”, said Terzic.

He added that since December, when Ivanic resigned on the post of the Foreign Minister, there has been a crisis that was created and managed under his leadership, and that the level of activities in the Council of Ministers was absolutely reduced.

Terzic said that he was truly sorry to have to make this decision, given that Ivanic was very committed to the reformatory process until mid last year.

“That what characterizes today’s decision of the High Representative is also the fact that representatives of the international community, and especially the participating states of the Peace Implementation Council, must understand that the policy that is supported by Minister Ivanic, and especially the political subjects from RS, for removing the Bonn powers from the High Representative, is catastrophic for BiH”, said Terzic.

If we had accepted that policy and if the international community had disempowered the High Representative some time ago, than today, once again, we would not have a SIPA director and we would not know when this process would be complete, underlined Terzic.

“I hope that after these removals we will come into a position to understand that the people in the executive

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power are responsible for making moves and decisions, instead of hiding behind the High Representative”, said BiH Council of Ministers Chair.

### **Bosnian Croat veterans, Croatian Government agree deal on assistance**

HINA

June 7, 2005

Representatives of the Croatian government and of associations of Croat war veterans and war victims in Bosnia-Herzegovina have agreed on the contents of an inter-state agreement regulating assistance which Croatia will give to about 13,500 members of the Croat Defense Council (HVO) [Bosnian Croat forces in 1992-95 war] and Croat veterans' and disabled civilians' associations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said Andjelko Barun, the head of the Bosnian Croat war veterans' HVIDR-a association.

Barun told a news conference in Mostar that 13,500 Bosnian Croats would be entitled to pensions from Croatia and hospital treatment in Croatia. Children of Bosnian Croat war veterans, covered by this agreement, will be on equal footing as Croatian children in the process of enrolling in secondary schools and colleges in Croatia as well as in students' dormitories.

Barun added that the agreement should enter into effect on 1 January 2006 and until then the document should be officially signed and ratified by Croatia's and Bosnia's state parliaments.