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Media News

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Initiative to Draft the Media Law

The Right to Speak and Free Access to Media

The Office of the High Representative (OHR) and OSCE Mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina have announced activities aimed at assisting the state and entity governments in Bosnia-Herzegovina in drafting the Law on Information and Law on Libel.

Former High Representative Carlos Westendorp announced on July 30, 1999 a comprehensive decision related to drafting laws on the protection of the right to expression both for citizens and journalists in Bosnia-Herzegovina. These laws will protect the rights of citizens and journalists to access information related to their governments and to access information possessed by their governments and public institutions, including the right to publish this information. This decision also stipulates that both entities, led by the Office of the High Representative, will pass the necessary laws with the aim of introducing civil suit for written and verbal slander in line with the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The reason for the request is the large number of court proceedings launched over the last several months against editors of independent Bosnian-Herzegovinian papers in which some of them have been faced with prison sentences pursuant to the present legislation in the country. Westendorp practically with his decision of July 30 removed libel from the field of criminal to the field of civil proceedings, thereby preventing prison sentences for journalists. Although this change was not developed and voted for in parliament, the “recommendation” resulted in the termination of court cases or acquittals.

The decision further says that this law must be “...prepared under the leadership of the Office of the High Representative, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina and international legal experts,” which makes it clear that the law will be

firmly backed, and if necessary imposed by the international community. The deadline for passing these laws is December 30, 1999.

The OHR has sent individual requests to the entity governments to prepare their own draft laws or detailed plans containing the principles that each of the governments wants to build into the law during the process of drafting it. The draft law or plan should be completed and submitted to the Office of the High Representative and OSCE by November 1, 1999 at the latest.

The OHR and OSCE Mission will head and coordinate the development of the laws. This process includes the establishment of an Advisory Legal Group. The group will examine the law drafting process, and it will consist of local and international experts and Bosnian-Herzegovinian government representatives. The OHR and OSCE, with suggestions from the Independent Media Commission (IMC), will jointly select the Advisory Legal Group members who are not from the ruling structures. This process will also include regular consultation with journalists, non-governmental organizations dealing with human rights and rights of journalists, civil groups, representatives of political parties and the general public. The first such consultation will take place during an OSCE-organized conference tentatively planned for the end of November. As the process develops, public forums will be organized for discussion on this issue.

The entity governments have been asked to propose candidates for members of the Advisory Legal Group. The group will include three government representatives: two from the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and one from the Republika Srpska. The names of the candidates and proof of their qualifications necessary for candidacy are to be submitted for review to the OHR and OSCE by Monday, October 22, 1999 at the latest.

Already now there is doubt in some media that the media laws will be drawn up and passed by the end of the year. Namely, a similar attempt to draft the Permanent Election Law, based on cooperation between the international community and the Bosnian-Herzegovinian authorities with numerous consultation discussions, has been prolonged for spring although the final deadline for that had also been the end of this year. However, Westendorp's July 30 decision is still a strong incentive for drafting this law. The international community and its competence in Bosnia-Herzegovina guarantees that the authorities will follow the principles of this decision even before passing the law, or otherwise the OHR will use its extraordinary powers to remove those who are "disobedient."



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About Federal TV, Erotel and Inter-Entity Cooperation (politicians, public workers and journalists from the BiH Federation speaking)

The decision of the international community's High Representative to Bosnia-Herzegovina on the organization of the public radio-television system has caused different reactions – from support to indifference, misunderstanding and protest. In this issue of *Media News* our survey features journalists, politicians and public workers from Sarajevo, that is to say the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. We asked them the following questions: **what should be done to ensure that the new radio-television of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina satisfies the interests of both constituent peoples and at the same time becomes an attractive medium for all viewers; what they think about Erotel as the medium of Bosnian-Herzegovinian Croats; whether cooperation is possible between entity televisions and if so, how?**

It seems that at least among the surveyed Sarajevans who are known to have different political views, there is no longer any doubt as to whether federal television is needed. Mirza Hajric, advisor to BiH Presidency member Alija Izetbegovic, in his answer warns that “there exists a danger that the BiH Federation television by program similarity will be drowned in other station's programs.” Therefore, he proposes that this television station should build its own specific character by establishing a network of cantonal televisions.

Mehmed Halilovic, journalist and editor for *Oslobodjenje*, and Friar Luka Markesic underline journalist professionalism. According to them, that is the main condition for the program to be interesting for all viewers. “The new television must not be under the political influence of parties, either those in power or those in opposition!”, says Halilovic. When asked how to make a good television and at the same time a medium that suits both peoples, *Oslobodjenje* columnist Gojko Beric replies: “I don't know what the interest of the people is, because I don't know what the people is. Today's interpreters of those interests are the SDA and HDZ. If the reality is a reflection of those interests, then there is something wrong with the political will of Bosniaks and Croats, measured by European standards. For such a projected popular will, only a television program that prefers political and spiritual kitsch is relevant.”

What are “Specific National Interest”?

Prof. Dr. Muhamed Nuhic, journalist and journalist pedagogue for many years, warns that the federal television must not be divided into national channels. According to him, a balanced staffing structure, good coverage of the whole Federation and balance in cultural program and movies are the main conditions for this television to become a medium for all citizens and both peoples. A little bit more pragmatic in his suggestions on how to achieve a good federal television was the editor-in-chief of Radio Vrhbosna, Vlado Bilic: employment parity (45:45:10 percent others), language equality, money for quality domestic and foreign program, more diverse program structure (not only political programs).

Ana Havel, representative in the House of Representatives of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Parliamentary Assembly, in her answer first warned that “the editorial policy should be changed and of course the staffing structure of the constituent peoples in the program, because the present television in Sarajevo does not satisfy the Croats of Bosnia-Herzegovina in this regard, and surely neither objective viewers.” The issue of the new federal television's quality was raised by a journalist from *Hrvatska rijec*, Alenko Zornija. In his opinion, the key issue is not “what” to

do, but “how” to do it. He mentioned the issues of language equality, professionalism in news program, competence in editing other programs... Speaking about “some specific interests,” Zornija said: “I don’t believe that, for example, Croats will be satisfied if the future TV broadcasts matches of some German or Italian football teams (perhaps objectively more interesting) instead of, for example, matches played by Split’s Hajduk. Or that they will be happy if, as has been the case, a program is broadcast about mujahedins from Bocinja without any critical approach, etc.” This journalist has an interesting opinion that these issues are given too much political significance because development of computer and digital telecommunication technologies will soon make available TV programs from all over the world and in all languages.

Journalist and member of the Association of Independent Intellectuals Slavko Santic says the answer to what the Federation RTV should be like depends on what the Republika Srpska RTV should be like. “All this about television is politicized, and I, or other viewers and listeners, am not asked about it nor do I have any influence,” Santic said.

Different Opinions of EROTEL

EROTEL Television from Mostar, which broadcasts a combined program of its own and Zagreb-based HRT production via a network of Croat TV stations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, at least in Sarajevo causes a lot of uncertainty. The surveyed people were asked what should be done with this TV station after the establishment of federal television. Namely, it has been announced that this TV station is partially owned by the state HRT from Zagreb, that it is illegally using some frequencies and that it should define its status as a public or commercial television.

Atif Purivatra, president of the Association of Bosniak Intellectuals, Friar Luka Markesic and Vlado Bilic maintain that EROTEL should be encompassed in the new federal television, which would practically mean some sort of legalization of its present quasi public status. Zlatko Vukmirovic, editor of *Vecernje novine*, Mehmed Halilovic, Muhamed Nuhic, Svetozar Pudaric, Social-Democratic Party spokesman, and Slavko Santic maintain that EROTEL should continue broadcasting as a local private (commercial) television pursuant to existing laws. Mirza Hajric was even more decisive: “EROTEL can exist as a private TV station (like Bosniak TV). In any case, it must adhere to the standards of democratic media which is not the case right now.”

Only Open Televisions Have a Chance

Not a single surveyed person was in favor of abolishing EROTEL. Ana Havel and Alenko Zornija gave multiple-meaning answers. Havel disputed *Media News*’ conclusion that “EROTEL is considered a television of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Croats,” by asking “why did not you ask this same question about dozens of television stations in Bosnia-Herzegovina which are considered to be televisions of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Bosniaks.” Concretely she answered that Croats are less present in Bosnia-Herzegovina media-wise and should expand their RTV network like the other constituent peoples have done.” Zornija gave a similar answer, pointing out that “it is good that there are more media if technical capacities allow it and if those media adhere to the democratic and civilization standards.”

When asked about possible cooperation between the entity televisions, all surveyed people were unanimous: it is both needed and possible. Slavko Santic answered that “entity televisions do not stand a chance if they are closed, because the citizens want a choice, and if they do not have that they can easily find on satellite what they want.” Friar Luka Markesic sees cooperation between the entity televisions through their presence in the RTV BiH Public Service. Alenko Zornija is against “administrative ways” of either preventing or stimulating cooperation because it must be an expression of the interests of citizens and national groups. Zlatko Vukmirovic is in

favor of all forms of cooperation, with a careful selection of content and form, so that “air poisoners” do not appear in this “slippery field.” Mirza Hajric is in favor of a solution of having entity televisions cover the whole territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mehmed Halilovic insists on professionalism as the common denominator of cooperation. Civil Party President Ibrahim Spahic maintains that cooperation is desirable not only in information exchange, but also in joint production. Gojko Beric is a bit more pessimistic: cooperation is desirable, but obviously not possible. If it were possible, it would have first been established in the state Presidency and Council of Ministers.

To conclude the survey we carried out in Banja Luka (see *Media News* no. 40) and Sarajevo, we can state that none of the 30 or so surveyed public workers and journalists in the two entities expressed serious reservations about the possibility of cooperation between the radio-television stations of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska. True, no particularly fresh and original ideas were presented. The surveyed people generally made principled and widely-known statements, which means that the real answer to “what” and “how” is up to professionals.

However, the launching of a public service as a common (single) TV news program for the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina generally causes different reactions in the entities. People in Sarajevo have mostly supported its establishment, while in Banja Luka they have mostly expressed reservation. (L. O. – U. Z.)

O p i n i o n s

RTV Networks -- Many Wishes, Few Technical Capacities

(Written for *Media News* by Engineer Dragan Miovcic, RTV BiH)

We continue to publish opinions of radio-television experts who analyze from different angles the possibility of reconstructing the radio diffusion system in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Today we present the opinion of Dragan Miovcic, electrical engineer employed at Radio-Television BiH. His topic is whether planners of RTV networks in Bosnia-Herzegovina are taking into account the technical and frequency capacities that Bosnia-Herzegovina has today.

* * * * *

The fact that discussions on radio television reconstruction are mostly held between local politicians and the international community may have negative consequences. Little has been heard so far in the public about the technical conditions in which new radio and TV services will appear in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The following question must be raised: do the lawmakers, as well as those who insist on a large number of programs, channels, networks, know at all that the frequency resources are limited and that the present technical infrastructure for program transmission is – very modest.

The international community has since 1934 (The Luzern Conference) been allocating frequencies and providing protection for their usage with the help of relevant conventions and regulations. Unfortunately, the requests expressed in Bosnia-Herzegovina today for three entity TV channels and a public service at Bosnian-Herzegovinian level, which has been verified by a decision/law made by the High Representative, do not leave much room in the frequency spectrum for other potential users. Here I refer first of all to the already established cantonal networks in the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and then to the need to establish a strong

commercial network, and finally, to OBN television, which is probably interested in continuing its development.

Allocated frequencies, elevations and power, defined by current plans, enable the establishment of so-called “ground networks” in the territory of the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina: three television networks, four radio networks and another one for radio broadcasting on mediumwave frequency.

However, in the past seven to eight years, radio and TV organizations of different character and coverage have started operating in Bosnia-Herzegovina in urban areas. They (from the technical aspect) have been inadequately using the allocated or occupied frequencies, which is in violation of the generally accepted criteria and standards of their usage. Thanks to the individual occupation of certain frequencies and broadcasting elevations, a significant part of frequencies planned for the development of networks in Bosnia-Herzegovina has already been used or divided. IMC, by issuing temporary licenses for the usage of such occupied frequencies, has in a way verified this situation.

In order to speak about the technical capacities for establishing a public RTV service and entity radio and television programs, four pressing problems should be looked at:

First, the present technical state of broadcasting and transmission systems in the territory of both entities is not such that it can even remotely satisfy the expected program equality both in production and “coverage.”

Second, the establishment of networks which will enable simultaneous broadcasting of a number of different radio and TV programs requires not only high material investments, but also time that is necessary to build new and improve the existing infrastructure, and to procure and install equipment.

Third, the necessary frequency resources are already being inadequately used outside of networks (for example: an allowed frequency is in use, but not the elevation and allowed emission power) or they are attacked by the neighboring countries, which puts Bosnia-Herzegovina in an unequal position and will create difficulty when the so-called present situation is discussed.

Fourth, the legally established subscription rate of 6 KM will hardly enable simple reproduction of the existing technical systems, even if 100 percent of subscription were to be collected.

It is realistic to expect a very long period of harmonizing the present situation in the frequency spectrum with plans for the operational work of new television stations. The Independent Media Commission (IMC) will have to play a big role in this, and it will have to be involved in possible pre-planning and new international coordination of plans.

One of the questions that has not been answered yet, which may give rise to discussion among nationally-oriented politicians, is usage of frequencies for broadcasting radio program on the mediumwave frequency. It is known that Bosnia-Herzegovina has potential to broadcast a radio program on a much bigger territory than this country. A strong transmitter at Donje Mostre near Visoko covers not only Bosnian-Herzegovinian territory, but also other parts of the former Yugoslavia, some countries in northwest and western Europe, and the northern parts of some Mediterranean countries. Perhaps the radio is now not in the focus of attention of the local political public and international community, but anyone who starts to work seriously on a strategy of long-term development of electronic media in Bosnia-Herzegovina should now define this issue: what is the future of this radio frequency and to what degree should it be used rationally for wider radio program coverage.

A problem of a technical nature that may appear is the evident disproportion between the development of the two present TV networks for the two federal television channels. Which language (unfortunately the channels will be predominantly profiled in that way) will be given

the more developed, and which the less developed network? It is possible that this will raise the issue of general national equality in the usage of the new networks, which has been a key problem since the start of RTV transformation.

Therefore, the future of public RTV services, and after that also of commercial networks and stations, will not depend on the mostly outdated, in some places improvised, and in any case insufficient infrastructure of the so-called ground transmission and broadcasting networks ("ground networks"). It is necessary to build a new infrastructure and put adequate transmission and broadcasting equipment in operation. Development strategists will also have to harmonize radio diffusion development plans with the deadlines for modifying frequency plans made by the international organization for allocating frequencies. Finally, moving towards cable program distribution in large urban areas, usage of satellite diffusion, digital production, processing, distribution and contribution of program, usage of the WEB via TV sets, are all questions that development strategists should answer. To think about the future, but to deal only with almost minor values (except for some parts of the infrastructure) in the present broadcasting and transmission system in Bosnia-Herzegovina, would be an irresponsible improvisation and a short-sighted policy.

Is Bosnia ready at least to enter the year 2000 with at least clarified ideas about this?

A n a l y s i s

In the Spirit of the Name **Analysis of 11 Issues of *Hrvatska rijec* (261-271)**

Hrvatska rijec has been published regularly for five years now, although not as a weekly from the very start. Its founder and publisher is *Nasa rijec* – News and Publishing Limited Liability Company Sarajevo. At the top of the front page it is written: "News and political paper – Sarajevo." Therefore, the very name explains the paper's editorial, content and program-political orientation. This is a Bosnian Croat medium. The paper is published Saturdays and is one of the cheapest weeklies in the country (1 KM/DM or 4 kunas).

By its format (20 x 39 cm), graphic design, and even the number of pages (40), *Hrvatska rijec* could be a tabloid, but format and graphic design are no longer an important component of a tabloid paper. Content and manner of featuring news and other items are decisive. By those parameters, *Hrvatska rijec* is not a tabloid. Whether that is its handicap or advantage mostly depends on the taste of the readership that in this case is not too large, which is the common characteristic of all periodical press in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Its circulation is expressed in four digits at the lower end of the scale. The number of unsold copies is insignificant because the paper is sold on subscription and in other similar ways, and least of all on newsstands. That at the same time explains the low price and the small number of unsold copies. Advertisements are modest (less than five percent of overall content), which increases the mystery of how the paper is financed.

Hrvatska rijec is characterized by a relatively firm editorial structure and concept, which primarily means that it has regular pages and features, such as: "Letters under protectorate," the caricature "Bosnian pot" (second page), two collage pages "The week behind us," with regular items "From foreign press" and "Personality of the week." If there are no interviews, that is compensated for by articles about current issues from political and economic life. The paper also features a regular TV program schedule with a rustic name "TV glow-warm" on eight pages, which is close to 20 percent of the paper's entire content. It has regular sports pages, usually two, but without any special depiction at the top. The topics are exclusively sports events in neighboring Croatia and Herceg-Bosna. The editors often politicize the sports pages, which was

particularly conspicuous in issue no. 268 (Sept. 18), which carried a statement by a player from Croatia's junior team given in a large bold headline across all six columns: "When I celebrated the goals in Belgrade, I was thinking of the burnt house in Konavle!"

Pronounced and usually one-way politicization is a significant characteristic of the editorial concept of *Hrvatska rijec*. It is usually pointed at the Bosniak partners in the authorities, but the international community is not spared of criticism either. This is illustrated by the regular caricature "Bosnian pot" on the second page. The drawings (Marko Knezovic-Copo) usually feature a showy and unskillful stylization of the fez with the crescent moon and star, which is a priori a sting aimed at Bosniaks. It is unclear why the Bosnian pot (a dish) is used as a Bosniak metaphor since it is a popular dish for all ethnic groups in Bosnia, and even wider.

Hrvatska rijec lacks self-criticism even in obvious examples such as in the case of Radio Drvar. In issue no. 271 (Oct. 10), an article was featured with the headline (across all six columns): "Croat patriotic songs assessed to have nationalistic and inflammatory connotation that hampers Serb return?" This referred to a recent Independent Media Commission (IMC) decision which banned this radio station from broadcasting program. In a call-in program (Aug. 18) whose guests were international community representatives, commercial folk songs were aired not only with strong nationalistic connotation, but also with Ustasha admixtures. Anti-Serb resentment was instigated ("The Drina should be crossed and Serbia burned...", "Ready for home!" and so on). Is that patriotism?

The paper also abounded in politically neutral topics, namely everyday life issues, which were featured in an interesting and professional manner, such as a reportage on the achievement of Zarko Mladina, child surgery specialist at the University Clinical Center in Tuzla, who was the first person in Europe to apply a complex American method in an operation procedure.

By its layout and graphic design, *Hrvatska rijec* is more like a daily newspaper, which is especially true if looking at the balance between photographs and text. The front page is filled with too many headlines announcing inside articles and it could be more attractive without the danger of drawing away the attention of potential readers.

Hrvatska rijec is obviously a hostage of the present political constellation, in particular in the context of the attitude of Zagreb and the ruling political party HDZ towards Bosnia-Herzegovina. That is a burden that the journalists and editors of this paper cannot seem to get rid of.

(Media Plan Monitoring Center)

The Internet and Journalism (2)

Application of computer technologies in the media indicates a revolution in journalism. It is yet to be seen whether and to what degree this medium will jeopardize the position of classical media. Many scientists have been dealing with this issue. *Media News* continues to publish a series of articles on the Internet and journalism, written by our associate from the Journalism Studies at the University of Mostar, M.S. Marija Putica.

A New Challenge – Computer Journalism

Computer journalism or computer-assisted journalism is, according to Garcia (for more see)¹: use of electronic tools for research, writing and publishing news.

¹ Brooks, B.S. (1997) *Journalism in the Information Age*, Needham Heights, Ma.; Allyn & Bacon. Garcia, J. *Computer-Assisted Journalism*, published on the Internet: <http://www.nyu.edu/pages/journalim/caj/home.htm>
Paul, N. (1994) *Computer-Assisted Research: A Guide to Tapping Online Information*, St. Petersburg, Fla.: The Poynter Institute. Ross, S. (1998) "Media in Cyberspace Study", Report at the conference "Information Technology and Journalism – Interactive Publishing in Central Europe", Dubrovnik, 1998.

According to this scientist, computer journalism is divided into three main categories:

- computer-assisted research
- computer-assisted reporting
- computer-assisted presentation.
- The following sources may be used in computer research:
- line search
- news documentation
- public documentation
- Internet search
- CD ROM search.

Data search in news documentations in the whole central Europe is still mostly done using outdated technologies (scissors and glue). According to Paul, line data bases have been the dynamite of the information explosion in the United States for several years now. Ross maintains that western Europe is lagging behind the United States only three to four years when this issue of the information technology is concerned.

Line data and news search in public data bases has existed in the United States since the mid-seventies. According to Burwell, information brokers are a new kind of specialists in the United States who operate outside of news organizations. They are experts who find information for other users. Brokers have developed because the users themselves do not want to search for data, do not have time to do it, and would rather pay experts to do it for them. The author of this article is familiar with brokerage attempts in Croatia. These are highly specialized experts who are able to quickly find and translate all sorts of information, but they do not make a living out of it because most European journalists who use computer data search do it themselves.

According to Brian S. Brooks, the Internet is the most common and probably the most important library in the world. It is so accessible that even the technically most illiterate journalist should not have a problem surfing it, but simple surfing is still far from using the Internet for journalists' professional purposes. However, the biggest problem lies in the fact that there is too much content on the Net to be searched, and the information is not completely reliable.

Searches can be local and global. Local search is applied when before starting to search we have enough information and we are looking for additional information on a website. Global search encompasses the whole data bases or the whole Internet. It is used when little is known about a certain subject and when a lot of data is required. No one can be sure they will find everything they need, but everyone will find at least something. It should be pointed out that a good search is based on a clear assessment of the specific information needs, familiarity with search tools, and correct usage of tools.

According to Nora Paul from the Poynter Institute, real search starts by asking the right questions, using the five classical journalistic Ws: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and adding to them How.

The ways of using search tools are not standardized yet. The following operators and filters are most often used in journalistic computer searches:

- keywords
- string searches
- wildcards
- Boolean logic operators
- proximity searches
- numeric operators

- field searches
- data operators.

However, what about search results: to store information in one's own data base, to keep it in some other way, or to delete it? There is no general rule! It is certainly useful to keep it because it may be of use when searching for the background of a current event. The same may be done with photographs. In addition to this ready information, it will be useful to know the sources of information, so it is useful to make a list of net addresses (Bookmarks in Netscape or Preferences in Internet Explorer).

C o m m u n i c a t i o n N e t w o r k

Under this headline we will in the future publish information and analyses of the media situation in countries of southeast Europe. It will feature articles by our associates from these countries, as well as experts from media institutes and schools of journalism that are part of the Communication Network for Free and Professional Journalism in Southeast Europe. The publisher of *Media News* is preparing to make it a regional edition starting next year.

The Communication Network was established early this summer by Media Plan Institute from Sarajevo, Institute for Media Law from Ljubljana, Center for Education of Journalists from Opatija/Zagreb, Albanian Media Institute from Tirana, Media Development Center in Montenegro (CERAM) from Podgorica, PULS magazine from Skopje, and the agencies: BETA, MONTENA FAX, STINA and SAFAX.

Kosovo Media Under International Control

After the war and the arrival of international forces in Kosovo, big changes are expected in the field of media. The United States and its allies that have been given peacekeeping tasks in Kosovo are establishing a media supervision system.

OSCE Europe has worked out a media plan, which is being implemented by the Kosovo Department for Media and relations with media headed by America's Davidson.

The Kosovo Media Department, based in Pristina, is currently engaged in allocating frequencies and broadcasting licenses in Kosovo. An OSCE official in Kosovo said the Media Administration is in charge of preventing media "abuses," in particular radio and television, so that people are not encouraged to go to the streets and provoke unrest.

The commission has the right to censor material, to "punish" radio stations, or to order responsible editors to stop working.

The OSCE chief in Kosovo, Holland's Dan Everte, has formed his media board composed of prominent public workers (Albanians and one Serb). That the OSCE really has competence over everything is proven by Radio Television Pristina, which worked under that name from the 1940s to July 1990, when its program was terminated as militiamen broke into the institution and threw Albanian workers out into the streets. With the arrival of international peacekeepers and the OSCE, this institution was practically closed and Radio Television Kosovo was formed, whose director general is Swiss Eric Blehman, presently president of the radio diffusion association.

The RT Kosovo project is financed with \$3 million given by donors. The institution's staffing structure includes 90 percent of employees from outside of Kosovo.

Three hours of programming are presently broadcast by RTK: one hour in Albanian and one hour in the Serbian language – on frequency EUTELSATNJ2, 16 degrees-east.

Of the former Radio Television Pristina workers, only a symbolic number are employed, around 40 journalists and technicians and other workers, which has caused dissatisfaction among some employees who have spent most of their lives working for this institution. The program itself is single except that two to three languages are used.

On FM frequencies there are several private and international radio stations. The United Nations Mission to Kosovo has its own radio stations broadcasting in Albanian, Serbian, English and French. Under international control is also the station BLUE SKY (sponsored by Scandinavian countries). It broadcasts on 96 megahertz and its program is in Albanian, Serbian and English. Radio Station Galaxy also broadcasts on FM in Albanian, Serbian and English on frequency FM 103. What is characteristic about this station is that the same team creates programming in all three languages.

For Albanians the most popular station right now is Radio 21 – frequency 98.8 megahertz – telephone 501 528, which broadcasts all-day Albanian-language programs from BBC, Voice of America and Free Europe. Its staff is composed mostly of young workers from Radio Pristina – the former radio station’s second channel. (Saban Hiseni)

Media Development Center Established in Montenegro

The non-governmental organization Alter Modus from Podgorica and Media Plan Institute from Sarajevo signed an agreement on Oct. 12 in Podgorica on mutual cooperation in the field of media development. Officials said at the signing ceremony that they consider media cooperation between the two organizations primarily a business and market interest, but they also emphasized its contribution to the development of good-neighborly relations between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro in light of the Southeast Europe Stability Pact.

The two organizations also agreed to jointly establish the Center for the Development of Montenegrin Media (CERAM). This organization’s first project will be an analysis of the media overview of Montenegro. Monitoring of the most influential Montenegrin media will also be launched. The Center will also organize training of Montenegrin journalists in Podgorica whose program will be based on the achievements of the High School of Journalism from Lille in France and the Media Plan school which operates in Sarajevo.

The establishment of the Media Development Center in Podgorica is the first concrete project implemented within the Communication Network for Southeast Europe.

A presentation of Bosnian-Herzegovinian press was organized during the signing ceremony for the Podgorica agreement. (R.U.)

N e w s

RTV FBiH Receives Temporary Broadcasting License

The Independent Media Commission (IMC) based on a decision of October 1, 1999 issued a temporary license for experimental broadcasting for the RTV of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina on the former second channel of RTV BiH. The license was issued while awaiting the broadcaster’s regular establishment and application for a temporary license, which should take place after the constitution of federal television. IMC will again review the issued license by January 1, 2000 at the latest if the relevant RTV FBiH bodies do not apply for an IMC license by then.

RTV FBiH experimental broadcasting will serve to implement a decision by the High Representative of July 30, 1999 on the establishment of a public broadcasting service for Bosnia-Herzegovina. IMC Director General Krister Thelin underlined that the temporary license is subject to renewal, modification and abolishment pursuant to the IMC policy and procedure.

Within its experimental program RTV FBiH presently broadcasts film or sports content in the evening hours. Its own program is not expected until the political partners in the BiH Federation agree on its staffing and program.

Journalist Attacked in Sanski Most

Rezak Hukanovic, director of Independent Television 101 from Sanski Most, attacked Edin Ramulic, editor-in-chief of the independent Bosnian Krajina magazine *Novo ogledalo* on the main square in Sanski Most on October 6. Ramulic was hit in the face and sustained light injuries.

Following the attack Ramulic said it was not an accidental incident because Hukanovic had been threatening him for a long time, which he had reported to the police and Independent Media Commission.

“I feel threatened in this town because there are absolutely no mechanisms for protecting independent journalists,” Ramulic told *Oslobodjenje*.

Novo ogledalo issued a statement expressing bitterness over the brutal attack. The statement said Ramulic ended up in the emergency room because he revealed in an article the details of a scandal involving one of the highest officials from the Prijedor branch of the Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina, which had nominated Hukanovic as its candidate in the last municipal elections.

Dnevni avaz wrote that Hukanovic went to Norway right after the attack. Upon his return to the country, legal measures will be taken against him.

Husein Zivalj seeks protection from IMC for a Dani magazine report

Deputy Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina Husein Zivalj addressed the Independent Media Commission (IMC) seeking protection following a report that appeared in the *Dani* magazine. Zivalj called untrue the report which said that during his mandate of ambassador to Vienna he issued a passport to Osama bin Laden. The deputy foreign minister said he was not at the embassy in that period and that he arrived there only in 1994. Zivalj maintains the paper's report violated a series of articles of the Press Code. He called *Dani*'s report irresponsible and dangerous for relations with the United States, which may get the impression that he was supporting terrorists.

In a letter to Zivalj, Independent Media Commission Director General Krister Thelin said the IMC does not intend to regulate print media in the way it is doing with electronic media because that would not be in line with democratic practice. However, the IMC supports the work of print media within self-regulation, and the director general shares Zivalj's interest in promoting and protecting free media. Thelin advised the deputy minister to contact the *Dani* magazine directly and to complain to them. If *Dani* does not respond, relevant journalist associations may also be contacted which have adopted the Press Code, wrote IMC.

Journalist Workshop in Trebinje

Media Plan Banja Luka organized a journalist workshop in Trebinje, southeast Bosnia-Herzegovina, on the topic “Media Freedom and Journalist Responsibility.” Fifteen journalists and correspondents from a number of media in Trebinje, Bileca and Gacko participated in the workshop.

The significance of the workshop is primarily in that it is the first professional journalist gathering organized in this part of the Republika Srpska after the war which is considered to be in some sort of a media blockade due to the political situation. The workshop was moderated by people from Banja Luka and Sarajevo. The workshop, like the previous ones in Banja Luka, Brcko and Zvornik, was supported by the National Endowment for Democracy, Washington.

Croat Radio Station Mostar Suspended

Croat Radio Station Mostar was issued an order of suspension of its license for a period of 90 days by the Independent Media Commission (IMC). On October 14, 1999 the radio repeatedly broadcast a statement issued by the organization of Croat war veterans HVIDRA (calling on the population to resist SFOR activities) in response to SFOR's operation in Mostar on October 14 (when illegal weapons possessed by criminal groups dangerous for the Dayton Agreement were confiscated). IMC maintains that the broadcasting of the statement was a potential threat to SFOR's mandate. Croat Radio Station Mostar acted in accordance with the IMC decision by stopping its program on Oct. 15 at 1540 hrs., and filing a request to the president of the IMC Council to postpone the execution of the decision. IMC may shorten the suspension period if it is established that the station has undertaken necessary steps to adjust its program to the Broadcast Code of Practice.

Following SFOR's operation in West Mostar, the Association of Croat Journalists in Bosnia-Herzegovina strongly protested against the "detention and hampering of work of 15 EROTEL journalists." According to the association, SFOR soldiers broke into the television station's premises and harassed the employees for four hours. The association appealed to all journalist associations in the world to condemn such conduct of SFOR soldiers in Mostar. ●

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