

REACTIONS

Inzko's Report Is a Simplified Version of the Situation in Bosnia

Chairman of the BiH Presidency Nebojsa Radmanovic said that the six-month report the High Representative to BiH, Valentine Inzko, submitted to the UN Security Council on the situation in BiH was made of journalists' reports and political speeches and that it paints a poor and false picture of BiH

Radmanovic said that it is not strange that Inzko composed such a poor report, given that he does not speak with elected officials in BiH, party leaders and citizens.

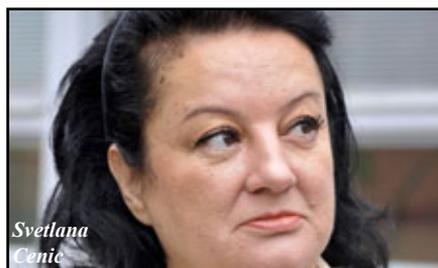
"He and his associates closed off in their offices, write what they like, and this simply is not the picture of BiH," Radmanovic said in a meeting with journalists in Sarajevo.

The international community itself is not responsible, but shares part of the responsibility with local political factors for the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, said analyst with the International Crisis Group Srečko Latal, commenting on Inzko's report. Latal said that Inzko's report offers a simplified version of the situation in Bosnia because it did not cover some very important issues, and it is primarily the responsibility of the international community, that is the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the situation in the country.

Entire world knew what High Representative Valentin Inzko said in UN Security Council, only this is the first time a man

hired by the international community said it before the world public, University Professor Slavo Kukic told FENA.

Kukic stated it has been clear in the last five years that Dodik and his political circle are doing everything to destroy BiH aiming at its dissolution.



"Anyone who deals seriously with political analyses sees the reasons of intensifying of cooperation between Dodik and Covic, which is weakening of BiH as state with ambition to lead to its dissolution", Kukic said.

The international community together with the OHR is definitely the main reason today's politicians are in power, and everything that was stated in the Report of the High Represent-

tative is a result of their work, said analyst Svetlana Cenic and added that, unfortunately, citizens are the ones that pay the ultimate price.

"Why do we hear now these statements about returning six years into the past? What was the OHR doing in the last six years? Inzko says that it was a continuous policy of denial and blockade of BiH. Why this wasn't reported in the last six years?" asks Cenic.

She believes that the OHR did not want to respond, or to use the Bonn Powers because "the democrats chosen by the international community are currently at the top of BiH political scene."

Change in BiH will happen, says Cenic, when the international community stops buying social peace in the country.

"As soon as a problem arises, the international community offers money, and local politicians for the sake of their financial gain give promises and tell the international community anything they want to hear. Stop giving money and buying fake peace. Stop, and let's see how politicians will behave when they have to earn money in this economy," said Cenic.



Jurriaan Kraak, Dutch Ambassador: Reconciliation and healing wounds of the past is a necessary condition for moving forward. Government of the Netherlands strongly rejects denial of genocide as morally wrong, and obstructing the reconciliation process



Zoran Milanovic, Croatian PM: I was using legitimate pressure on authorities in Bosnia and Republika Srpska, to caution them about the pollution emitted from the refinery in Bosanski Brod. The problem would be definitely resolved within two years



Bozo Ljubic, HDZ 1990: The number one issue for us is the implementation of the Roadmap and the implementation of the decision of Strasbourg court in the case of Sejdic and Finci. This is an opportunity to equalize the position of constitutive peoples

DUTCH AMBASSADOR JURRIAN KRAAK VISITS SREBRENICA

Political Leaders Should Work on Common Priorities, Rather Than Engage in Politics That Divide

Ambassador of The Kingdom of The Netherlands in BiH, H.E. Mr Jurriaan Kraak visited Srebrenica. His first official visit to this municipality started with laying a wreath and paying his respect to the victims of the 1995 genocide at the Memorial centre in Potocari

After that, the ambassador met with the mayor, Mr. Camil Durakovic and representatives of political parties of the Municipal Assembly.

"I call upon all local leaders, as well as authorities at entity and state level, to work together for the social and economic development of the region as a whole. I expect that they will identify promising sectors for regional economic development that can create jobs for all citizens, and that they will allocate funds for investment in these sectors in the municipal budgets 2013 and beyond", said ambassador Kraak.

He urges politicians to also ensure that socially vulnerable groups from all sections of the populations receive targeted support to enable them to participate in the region's development. Ambassador underlined that "the Dutch government is willing to provide continued substantial assistance, if local actors work together on common priorities, rather than engage in politics that divide".

"Reconciliation and healing wounds of the past is a necessary condition for moving forward. This is an especially difficult reality for Srebrenica, the site of the worst crime that happened on European soil since World War II. The experience of Srebrenica in July 1995 is also a stain on the collective conscience of the international community. The scale, nor the character of the atrocities can be denied: the massacre of over 8.000 people, mostly men and boys, constitutes genocide. This has been confirmed by the International Court of Justice, by the ICTY and by the State Court of BiH. The government of the Netherlands strongly rejects any denial of the genocide as morally wrong, and obstructing the process of reconciliation and of justice being served", stressed ambassador Kraak.

He also visited the OHR and OSCE offices and met with representatives of the civil society. At the office of UNDP he attended a presentation of current programs in support of the local population that is being implemented by this organization with funding of the Dutch government.

"My government invests 23 million USD in The Srebrenica Regional Recovery Pro-

gram in the period 2005-2014. This program is implemented through UNDP in the municipalities of Srebrenica, Milici and Bratunac, and aims at the socio-economic development of and sustainable return process in these municipalities" mentioned ambassador Kraak.

Since 1995, the Government of the Netherlands has invested 100 million Euros in bilateral support for reconstruction, rehabil-

itation and reconciliation in BiH with a special emphasis on the Srebrenica region. Areas of support have included housing, rehabilitation of infrastructure, economic development and job generation, strengthening local governance and civil society, identification of missing persons, prosecution of war crimes, psycho-social support for survivors of the genocide, and support to youth initiatives and local media.

OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre Head Commends Bosnia's Efforts towards Further Regional Security

Bosnia and Herzegovina's work aimed at compliance with its OSCE and international politico-military commitments demonstrates the country's commitment to contribute positively to security in the region and beyond, said Adam Kobieracki, the Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center during a two-day visit to Sarajevo, which concluded yesterday. Kobieracki met acting Defense Minister of BiH Mirko Okolic, acting Security Minister of BiH Mladen Cavar, Justice Minister of BiH Barisa Colak, representatives of the BiH Foreign Ministry, chairs of legislative assemblies in BiH, as well as representatives of the international community.



Brigadier Hajrudin Hubo, Head of the BiH AF Verification Center, and Adam Kobieracki, Director of the CPC

In his meetings, Kobieracki stressed the importance of reconciliation for the country: "Reconciliation contributes to conflict prevention, conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation, and is vital for any society and country - particularly for such a diverse one as Bosnia and Herzegovina. To achieve progress, all stakeholders must envision a future which is more tolerant and based on compromise and understanding, and make efforts to make it a reality." Kobieracki also addressed participants of the 5th Review Conference on Compliance with the OSCE/UN Security Commitments of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of the conference, which is organized by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, is to assess progress on the implementation and fulfillment of the country's politico-military commitments and to encourage constructive debate among political leaders and experts.

"The OSCE, including through its Mission to the country, supports Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to meet its security commitments to the benefit of its people and the OSCE community as a whole," stated Kobieracki.

He highlighted the successful and professional contribution made by Bosnia and Herzegovina's Armed Forces to the compliance requirements, including through the Verification Center's activities, and encouraged discussion on how compliance can be advanced further, with the participation of all relevant institutions.

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Commander of EU Command Element Visit Defense Ministry

Ministry of Defense, the Armed Forces of BiH of BiH and the command element of the European Union discussed in MoD in Sarajevo the future of the EUFOR Department of training, demining, destruction of surplus weapons and civil-military cooperation

The delegation of the host of the meeting was led by Deputy Minister of Defense for Policy and Plans, Marina Pendes and the visiting delegation was led by the commander of the command element of the EU, Lieutenant General Leandro De Vincenti.

The meeting was also attended by De Vincenti's close associates, and the commander of EUFOR in BiH, Major General Robert Brieger.

De Vincent rated the visit as of special function in learning about how the implementation of agreed plans, and how the new concept of EUFOR BiH

corresponds to the AF BiH.

Guests were especially interested in the future of EUFOR Department of Training. Pendes thanked the EUFOR Command on the help and cooperation, adding that the MoD and AF BiH achieved exceptional and intensive cooperation with the main command of EUFOR and that within their jurisdiction they support the mission and mandate of EUFOR.

"EUFOR makes a significant contribution to the development of independent and self-sustaining training capacity of AF BiH. This assistance, which is reflected in the ability of developing AF BiH

according to the requirements and standards of NATO, will speed up BiH's path to NATO membership," said Pendes.

US Ambassador Meets with HDZ President in Mostar

President of the HDZ party Dragan Covic talked in Mostar with the US Ambassador to BiH Patrick Moon about current situation in BiH and ways to solve the piled up problems which block a normal functioning of the country. HDZ president said that he is satisfied that some processes have been launched after months of institutional crisis. In that regard, he expressed satisfaction for political dialogue and determining parliamentary majority whose members will meet on 20 November in Mostar in order to define the framework programs for joint actions in the following two years.

Covic announced they would insist on meeting the deadlines for certain chapters, concrete ways for applying the "Sejdic and Fincl" verdict with respect to minority rights and removing discrimination. Also, he said that one of the requirements will be to agree upon measures for meeting the "MAP" conditions since "economic progress of BiH is not possible without progress on Euro-Atlantic path".

At the meeting, they also talked about solving the issue of City of Mostar and systematic anti-corruption fight. They emphasized that stronger anti-corruption fights is also necessary for progress towards the EU.

Ambassador Moon informed Covic on engagement of non-governmental organizations and representatives for expert community in BiH for improvement of reform process of the Federal Constitution which is supported by the international community. They also talked on different aspects of unblocking the Federal Government reconstruction process and HDZ president expressed worry since the citizens feel the consequences of that, mostly the poor ones.

US Ambassador said that the US wants to see a functional Federal Government and he encouraged the HDZ party to have a positive role in that process.

Additional Investments in Family Planning Would Save Developing Countries More than \$11 Bln a Year

Access to family planning is an essential human right that unlocks unprecedented rewards for economic development, says new UNFPA report. Making voluntary family planning available to everyone in developing countries would reduce costs for maternal and newborn health care by \$11.3 billion annually, according to The State of World Population 2012, published by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

"Family planning has a positive multiplier effect on development," said UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin.

"Not only does the ability for a couple to choose when and how many children to have help lift nations out of poverty, but it is also one of the most effective means of empowering women. Women who use contraception are generally healthier, better educated, more empowered in their households and communities and more economically productive. Women's increased labor-force participation boosts nations' economies."

The State of World Population 2012 says that governments, civil society, health providers and communities have the responsibility to protect the right to family planning for women across the

spectrum, including those who are young or unmarried.

Investment in family planning would save lives by preventing unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions. However, money is just one part of the solution.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Office of the United Nations Population Fund welcomes the adoption of the Decision on the adoption of the policy of sexual and reproductive health in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Council of Ministers adopted in September this year. Adopting policy including family planning and reproductive health commodity security policies is an important step for improving health of all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Family planning is not a privilege, but a right. Yet, too many women - and men - are denied this human right," said Dr. Osotimehin.

"The pledge we made in July in London to increase access to family planning will improve the lives of millions and will each year help avert 200,000 maternal deaths. As we approach the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, I call on all leaders to build on this momentum, close the funding gap, and make voluntary family planning a development priority."

Opponents according to Dodik's Taste

If he could have picked, Milorad Dodik couldn't find better opponents than Sefer Halilovic and Valentin Inzko. The first one can't touch him; the latter one can, but won't

Sefer Halilovic, former commander of SBiH Army, a retired general and the president of Bosnian-Herzegovinian Patriotic Party, BPS - a marginal party with a membership counting less than the population of Javan rhinoceroses and Amur leopards - had an appearance on TV1, and said that "our patience is running thin", warning Milorad Dodik to stop with "shenanigans and provocations" for his own sake.

"If he angers us, we will deal with him quickly," said Halilovic.

Unless his goal was to prove that a man can embarrass himself even with notoriously embarrassing Milorad Dodik, Halilovic revealed the best kept secret in this part of the world: thousands of soldiers masked as workers and students go to work and lectures every morning, and then, trying not to be suspicious, they go to trainings to...

I don't know, woods I guess. Hundreds of tanks are hidden in the Visoko pyramids. Instead of

snow cannons, real cannons are installed on the Vlasic mountain.

Jokes aside, it's too much, even if it came from a retired man. True, as soon as he articulated the threat, Halilovic took it down a notch, and explained what he meant to say. In a decisive, officer voice, he said that the parliament of BiH Republic never ratified the Dayton Peace Agreement, and that the Agreement was never fully implemented - I guess if it was, then it wouldn't matter that the parliament never ratified it. He cited the results of 1992 independence referendum, and, I guess in a moment of distraction, he informed the enemy about his, or ours, I don't know any more, most important move: restoration of Bosnian Republic.

We all know very well - as Milosevic used to say before he started with nonsense - Banja Luka wakes up every morning hoping that Sarajevo won't remember that RBiH parliament never ratified the Dayton Agreement. They pray to God that Bosniaks don't remember the results of independence referendum. Dodik was seen on several occasions in churches, lighting candles and praying to heavens that Bosnian Republic doesn't resurrect.

There is no Bosnia and Herzegovina that Milorad Dodik won't make worse, even if it was organized according to his wishes. There is no need to prove that again. The problem is

that there is nobody on the other side of the entity line that can do anything more than only detect the problem. Those who can't do anything are the loudest, and those who could do something prove silence is golden every time they open their mouth.

All high representatives in Bosnia had divine powers, but they mostly didn't use them. Valentin Inzko is no exception. Also, he is not going to put an end to verbal stunts that void each other. RS officials openly advocate dissolution of the country, Inzko says, and adds he expects local solutions, based on dialogue and compromise. Or translated: High Representative expects the people who do their best



By Emir Imamovic
Radio Sarajevo

to expedite Bosnia's shelf life to invest more effort in making Bosnia more European, sort of speak. He seriously insists that the problems of a tired, poor, barely functional country must be solved by the people who made it that way.

Ever since he arrived and bought that scarf to support

Bosnia's national football team, Inzko behaved like an ambassador of a "friendly" country in Bosnia, always ready to express deepest concern for the situation, but quickly adding that there won't be meddling in internal relations, and that solution should come from dialogue of legitimate representatives, although the dumbest person on earth sees that all internal and most of external problems in Bosnia stem from the fact that legitimate representatives can't have dialogue. Some don't know how, others just don't want it.

Every time Inzko speaks, it becomes less clear why for God's sake Milorad Dodik wants OHR closed. Even Sefer Halilovic seems serious with such High Representative, and his BPS is Obama's administration compared to Inzko's office.

Milorad Dodik shouldn't be underestimated - far from that - but he was overestimated, which is less his and more the credit of people in Sarajevo who make empty threats, like Halilovic, or get a sudden urge in the middle of a local crisis to tell Bosnian intellectuals that they took a jar of wonderful homemade ajvar to their mother in Austria, and they now go to see a match. When the match is over, they will voice deep concern and call for dialogue, so that Halilovic doesn't have to sort things out. Which we know scares the hell out of Dodik.

❖ China urged all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to enhance political mutual trust, promote national reconciliation, resolve differences through dialogue in order to achieve greater progress in all areas. Wang Min, Chinese deputy permanent representative to the UN, made the call when addressing an open meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Bosnia. China respects the independence, sovereignty, national unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the choice made by its people for the future of their country, Wang said.

"We hope that all ethnicities in Bosnia and Herzegovina will proceed from the wellbeing and long-term interest of the country, adopt practical measures to enhance mutual political trust, promote national reconciliation and resolve their differences through dialogue, implement comprehensively Dayton Paris Peace Accord, and work towards greater progress in all areas," he said.

❖ Based on the Federal Budget Decision for 2012, the Federal Government approved to the Federal Ministry of Spatial Planning 150.000 KM for solving the accommodation problems of Roma population. Federal Ministry for Spatial Planning is authorized to combine these funds with the funds of the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees about which they will sign a memorandum on understanding on implementation of the Action Plan for solving the Roma population accommodation problems.

BOSNIA DAILY

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Pressure on Bosnia over Pollution Legitimate: Croatian PM

Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic said that he was using legitimate pressure on authorities in Bosnia and Republika Srpska, to caution them about the pollution emitted from the refinery in Bosanski Brod, adding that the problem would be definitely resolved within two years

Milanovic added that the problem of the refinery has existed for quite some time and that the refinery was undergoing modernization and that it would be shut down for two months for its overhauling. Additional gauging is to be conducted to establish the true status of the pollution is and whether there is any fault to be assigned to the Croatian side, the Croatian PM said during Question Time.

He stressed that the government disposed of negotiating instruments towards Bosnia as it was in the interest of both countries to protect themselves from pollution.

He pointed out that the government could not act outside its institutions with regard to neighboring countries but it can apply legitimate pressure.

"We are doing everything in our power and everything the previous government did too and what is realistically possible but we can-

not resolve the matter overnight. The problem is that BiH is not in the European Union and that is why we sincerely hope that BiH and Serbia will adapt to European standards as soon as possible", said Milanovic.

Agriculture Minister Tihomir Jakovina claimed that Croatian citizens can be sure that food imported to Croatia from neighboring countries, including BiH, are safe as veterinary inspections are responsible and transparent.

HDZ BiH, HDZ 1990 Leaders Agree on Positions before Meeting of the Six

Leaders of the Croat Democratic Union (HDZ) 1990 Bozo Ljubic and HDZ BiH's Dragan Covic held a meeting in Mostar and agreed positions ahead of a six-party meeting of leaders of the parliamentary majority in Mostar, on November 20. The host of the meeting Bozo Ljubic said they agreed positions on important points, especially when it comes to the implementation of the road map.

"The number one issue for us is the imple-

mentation of the Roadmap and the resolution of the decision of the court in Strasbourg in the case of Sejdic and Finici. This is an opportunity to equalize the position of constituent peoples, as it would not happen again for one people to elect representatives of other people," Ljubic said, adding that the reconstruction of the government in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is also a very important issue for the two parties.

"Centralization is essentially usurping and is detrimental to the stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is cynical to seek the division of Mostar, and to prohibit the same thing at the state level," said Ljubic. Leader of the HDZ BiH Dragan Covic expressed the opinion that the meeting of the six in Mostar next week will be successful.

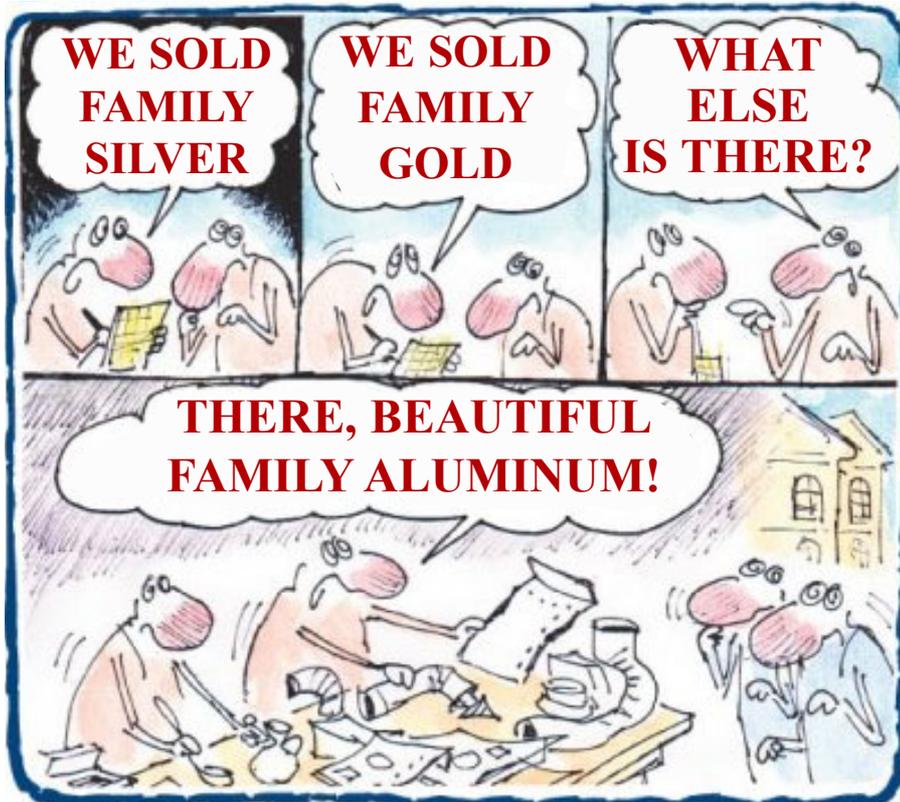
"We have agreed on joint action. Goal was to establish criteria that one people do not elect representatives of other people. We are convinced that we will get support from all parties when it comes to reconstruction of the FBiH Government," said Covic.

Asked how he sees the assessment of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was presented by High Representative in BiH Valentin Inzko in the UN Security Council, Covic thanked the High Representative for pointing out at what the two parties have already indicated for years.

"Inzko said what we have advocated for many years, and that is the constitutional equality," said Covic and stressed that it is time to say stop to centralization.

"We feel centralization for many years and it is unacceptable that anyone centralizes cantonal jurisdiction on the federal level and in the absence of legitimate representatives of the Croat people," said Covic.

Speaking about the judicial system in BiH, in relation to the agreement of the Social Democratic Party of BiH (SDP) and the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD), and election of prosecutors, leaders of HDZ 1990 and HDZ BiH agreed about the need of reconstruction of judicial system, especially in its prosecutorial part.



Srecko Puntaric - Vecernji list

VLAHOVIC TRIAL

Journalist Offended in Courtroom

When the Trial Chamber entered the courtroom, the prosecutor, Behaija Krnjic, asked that the defendant Vlahovic be warned about his behavior in the courtroom

"As the trial draws to its end, there are more and more incidents. Today Vlahovic cursed the mother of a journalist and witness in this case and I plead with you to warn him about such behavior in the courtroom," said Krnjic.

The journalist of the Sarajevo based newspaper "Oslobodjenje", Edina Kamenica, was called as a witness in order to confirm the authenticity of her texts about crimes at Grbavica. The presiding judge, Zoran Bozic, said that the Trial Chamber did not witness the event, but he warned the defendant that he had to act appropriately in the courtroom.

"Whom did I curse? These are provocations. If I said something to someone, let me leave," said Vlahovic.

The Trial Chamber member, Mira Smajlovic, then warned Vlahovic that he was disrespecting the court.

Vlahovic is charged with murdering and taking part in murder of more than 30 persons, as well as with abusing and robbing

non-Serbs between May and August 1992 on the territory of the Sarajevo neighborhoods of Grbavica, Vraca and Kovacic.



Edina Kamenica

Zoran Katanic from Ruma in Serbia, who employed Vlahovic as a security guard in his tavern in the late summer of 1992, testified for the defense at this hearing.

"I sought someone from the outside and a friend of mine recommended Batica from Niksic and in the second half of August in 1992 he started working for me," said Katanic.

He said that the defendant's duty was to come to the work every day, but that he failed to show up on several occasions.

The other witness, Zehra Zele, testified about her father-in-law being taken away from Grbavica and subsequently killed. She emphasized she was not an eyewitness to the murder, but that she heard about it from her husband and mother-in-law.

"In June 1992, two men came and took my father-in-law together with two other neighbours. I don't know who they were, nor which one of them killed my father-in-law later," said Zele.

LADJENOVIC ET AL

Houses that Should Be Burnt

A State Prosecution witness confirms, while testifying before the State Court, that he was in the attic of his house in Hranca village, Bratunac municipality on May 3, 1992 and saw indictee Najdan Mladjenovic pointing to houses that his soldiers should set on fire that day.

"When I saw him from the attic, Mladjenovic was standing next to his house. He had a rifle, cap, uniform and walkie-talkie. He pointed his finger to houses that should be set on fire: my house, my brother-in-law's house and a couple of others. The soldiers spread around and set all of them on fire. Six houses were burnt down that day. It was all over in 20 minutes," said State Prosecution witness Secan Salkic, former neighbour of indictee Najdan Mladjenovic.

As he said, when the soldiers entered Hranca village, all village residents were outside their houses. Most of them were hidden in the woods or surrounding locations. He said that, after having left his wife and children at his relatives'

in Cerovac village, he returned home to feed his cattle.

"I first saw three tanks. They were followed by about 40 soldiers, who were coming down the hill and entering the village. I got scared. I got very scared. When I saw the large number of soldiers, I ran to my house, climbed up to the attic and hid in it. Looking between roof tiles, I could see Najdan's house, the soldiers and Najdan himself," Salkic explained.

As he said, the attack on Hranca continued until Mladjenovic issued an order to stop the fire and told his soldiers to go back to their positions.

Mladjenovic is on trial, along with Savo Zivkovic, for having committed crimes against humanity by unlawfully depriving the Bosniak civilian population of their liberty, physically and mentally abusing them and destructing their property within a widespread and systematic attack on Hranca and Glogova villages, Bratunac municipality on May 3 and 9, 1992.

The indictment alleges that Mladjenovic

was Commander of the Territorial Defense in Bratunac, while Zivkovic was member of that unit.

Witness Salkic said that he left Hranca village in the evening on that same day and went to Cerovac village, where his family was. He said that, six days later Cerovac and Glogova villages were attacked as well, adding that he heard that some houses were set on fire and people killed in Glogova.

"I did not know exactly what was going on in that village, because Cerovci was attacked that same day. I remember that the entire area, including Glogova village, was covered with smoke. All I could think about was how to flee and save my life," Salkic said.

Salkic said that he had never met Mladjenovic, whom he used to see and had known his "whole life", again after May 3, adding that he did not know indictee Savo Zivkovic at all.

The trial is due to continue on November 27.

FOREIGN TRADE CHAMBER ANALYST

Inzko's UN SC Report Will Have Devastating Impact on Foreign Investment Climate

Macroeconomic analyst of the BiH Foreign Trade Chamber Duljko Hasic

believes that the report of the High Representative before the UN Security Council clarified completely divided and fragmented economy space of Bosnia and Herzegovina

"A negative report submitted by Valentin Inzko and the OHR will directly affect the rare foreign investors who are thinking about investing in BiH. After this report the only thing we have left are radical changes in the political leadership of the country. Only political stability can trigger foreign investment and guarantee economic stability, Hasic told FENA.

Hasic warned that in the last six or seven years, foreign investments that have been realized in BiH are minute compared to the degree of foreign investment in neighboring countries.

"Economic situation since 2008 to date in this country has been rapidly deteriorating. On the other hand, poor business climate and business environment, in addition to political instability drives

away investors," explains Hasic.

Views of the OHR presented by the High Representative, experts say, will have a devastating impact on attracting foreign investment in BiH, which have been in decline since 2008.

Conference on Second Measurement of Business and Consumer Confidence Index in Bosnia

The GIZ Project "Fostering of local and regional economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina" in partnership with Prism Research Agency and the Directorate for Economic Planning Council of Ministers BiH has organized



a conference yesterday in Hotel Sarajevo. The conference was organized on the occasion of presenting the results of the second measurement of the Business and Consumer Confidence Index in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the conference GIZ together with its partners presented the brochure on the Index. The brochure was developed as a result of the cooperation and support of the IFO Institute from Munich, a renowned institute in economic research in Germany. IFO Institute, in cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce based in Paris, publishes in a quarterly period the IFO World Economic Climate Index for more than

one hundred countries of the world. The Index is based on the World Economic Survey of Business and Consumer Confidence Index. With the support of GIZ, Bosnia and Herzegovina has been involved in the World Economic Survey since April 2012 through the IFO Institute. Thus, the data for BiH has been collected from the second quarter of 2012. Gernot Nerb, Senior Expert from the IFO Institute, as a main contributor to the Brochure attended the conference. In his statement, Nerb focused on the benefits of the continued measurement of the Index. He especially highlighted the benefits decision-makers may obtain from the research as well the benefits for macroeconomic analysis and entrepreneurs. The main objective of the conference was to make recommendations for local authorities on state level. International donors should secure the needed political support to guarantee that the research is conducted on a larger scale on a regular monthly basis in Bosnia. The obtained results will help that in Bosnia the economic status can be better monitored and economic policy can be planned in comparison with surrounding states. Currently, reliable economic statistics are missing in Bosnia. Yet the research presents a chance to take part in economic renowned research.

Federation's Gov't Drafts Law on Labor

At a meeting in Mostar, Federation BiH Government sent to parliamentary procedure the Draft Law on Labor, which is an integral new Federal law, since the current Labor Law was passed in 1999 and has been changed many times by now, said the Office of Public Relations of FBiH Government.

In accordance with the conclusions of both houses of Parliament, a public debate was made on the Draft Law, so comments and suggestions were given related to clear and precise wording of certain provisions that contribute to the improvement of the text adopted and incorporated into the text of the Draft Law.

In order to better protect young workers who are first employed as a trainee, a proposal was accepted that the employer and the intern may agree to pay a higher amount than the amount stipulated in Article 32 Paragraph 3 of the Law.

They also accepted the suggestion to provide the possibility of the training to work without employment rather than the concept of volunteer work, because of possible abuses.

Otherwise, this legal project respects commitments of a number of national and international documents regulating the labor and employment, as well as 68 ILO conventions which were verified by our country, the European Social Charter and the Law on Gender Equality in BiH, and were harmonized with the European principles and standards of labor legislation.

Judges and Prosecutors Seek Help from the International Community

High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council addressed a letter to Stefan Fuele, EU's enlargement commissioner, regarding the agreement of SDP and SNSD leaders, Zlatko Lagumdžija and Milorad Dodik

According to the agreement, prosecutors would be appointed by entity parliaments instead of the HJPC. A year ago, Fuele said that he supports independence of judiciary in Bosnia. That independence is undermined by the agreement of two social democratic parties. They clearly agreed to impose political influence on all judicial functions, and open the door for political appointments of prosecutors.

Devastating Consequences

Reactions to the SDP-SNSD agreement in Bosnia keep coming. Besides mild reaction from several embassies, and rather vague message from High Representative Valentin Inzko, High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council needed to write to Stefan Fuele. The Council said that the agreement of Lagumdžija and Dodik will roll back the reform process in the judiciary, undermine independence of prosecutorial system in Bosnia and impose political control on it. Milorad Novkovic, president of the Council, said the letter didn't rule out the need to involve the international community in the process.

"We will soon send another letter to all addresses from before, and we will ask what was done about that."

RFE/RL

Meddzida Kreso, president of BiH Court, also supported HJPC. She says that the SDP-SNSD agreement is about political influence in judiciary. According to her, that is the purpose of a new draft law on courts in BiH, which didn't attract public attention because of the issue of prosecutors.

"The range of political influence there! That law, drafted by the Justice Ministry, will decimate the BiH Court when it comes to its competences and the number of staff. We won't be able to work in full capacity. Reducing of competences relates to removing article 7 of the law, which gives BiH Court full capacity to protect the state's attributes. I, and my colleagues from the Court, have warned mister Mirel and institutions that follow our work about devastating consequences of such law."

Yet, SDP and SNSD don't agree that they want to politically control judiciary. They claim that BiH judiciary is an alienated power center, and that judges and prosecutors care only about their positions and interests. Lidija Korac, member of SDP presidency, says: "This way of complaining to European institutions flies against democratic practice and proves alienation of HJPC."

SNSD vice president Igor Radojicic says that "it is obviously an attempt to protect positions and interests, even if it means turning against legislators, who actually appointed them and regulate their work." Amir Jaganjac, president of Federation's Supreme Court, thinks it is not a struggle for functions.

"I believe it is a struggle for democracy, for rule of law, in our opinion in the best possible way."

Zelimir Baric, president of Republika Srpska's Supreme Court, says: "The purpose of that agreement is that politics appoints chief prosecutor, who would be on a list of loyal people. I think it is an outdated thing, and I believe it would be a setback to something we overcame a long time ago."

High Representative passed laws on formation of prosecution and court on the state level ten years ago. Since then, millions of Euros were invested to create an independent and professional judiciary. Although reform of judiciary isn't over, it yielded some results, especially when it comes to independent judiciary - something Dodik and Lagumdžija will erase with one strike.

Skill to Generate Issues

"The agreement of few political parties - I don't see it as a contribution to European integrations, speeding up Bosnia's European path, or a contribution to this structured dialogue," says Adis Arapovic from the Center of Civil Initiatives.

"It can have negative consequences if the EU decided to intervene, which would mean another bad mark for Bosnia. Instead of news about problems solved in Bosnia, it is unbelievable that we have news about new problems in places nobody expected. Political elite have this unlimited skill to generate new issues, new problems - sometimes to hide real problems, but basically to use the position and increase power of the elite on expense of independence of many institutions, in this case judicial ones."



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Dying of Pollution in Zenica

In the industrial district of Zenica, the number of tumors has increased alarmingly over the last ten years. The eyes are on local industries and especially the historic steel factory now privatized

The citizens of Zenica look at the arrival of autumn and winter with great concern. The town is located in a small, narrow valley - 14 kilometers from Janic to Vranduk, closed between two mountains that are not spaced more than 2 kilometers. As usual from November to February, a toxic cloud forms over the city which traps all the substances rising from the chimneys of steel plants, other factories, and houses. Because of bizarre historical circumstances, the city and the steel plant have shared the valley for a long time. After the Second World War, the Yugoslav government, with the help of Russians, had plans to build a new steel plant near Dobo, but the Yugoslav-Russian clash in 1948 changed the plans. The Yugoslav government then decided to build the plant in Zenica, on the foundations of the pre-existing Austro-Hungarian complex. The factory was placed in the wrong place from the beginning, in an area beaten by the winds in a way that pollution is blown towards the city. Therefore, since the second half of the twentieth century, the workplace and the houses have been inextricably joined under a poisonous hood. The population becomes painfully aware of this when winter mists, pregnant with all poisons, make the air so thick and heavy that it is not breathed, but rather swallowed.

Increasing Cancer Rates

In recent years, doctors and environmental activists have strived to inform the public of the increase of malignant diseases in the territory of Zenica and the entire Zenica-Dobo canton. A 2011 report on the population's health, conducted by the Cantonal Institute for Public Health, reveals alarming statistics. In the period between 2002 and 2011, tumors have become the second leading cause of death among residents with a striking 20%. According to the report, the number of cancer patients increased from 892 persons in 2002 to 1,888 in 2010 and 1,774 in 2011. If the number of patients had increased from 1063 to 1065 from 2003 to 2004, from 2004 onwards it has increased by the hundreds each year, and especially from 2007 onwards,

By Esad Hecimovic
Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso

i.e. since the full production of steel was resumed by reactivating the old plants that had been turned off at the beginning of the war in 1992.

The plant was sold twice, but the protection of the environment has never been set as a priority. First, 50% ownership was sold to Kuwait's investment agency, but its announced investments for renewal of production remained such. Then, the Kuwaitis sold their share to the Indo-British company of Lakshmi Nivas Mittal, one of the richest people in the world, who built most of his business empire by buying former socialist steel factories from transition governments that would sell them at any condition, as long as someone could rid them of the workers. So, Mittal bought the Zenica plant and promised to invest about 80 million dollars - an entirely feasible effort for someone who paid around 60 million dollars for his daughter's wedding and twice as much for a new house in London. Immediately after the acquisition, Mittal announced the New York Stock Exchange that the deal had earned him 80 million dollars. After the Kuwaitis' final withdrawal, Mittal became the majority owner of the plant, with the local government maintaining a symbolic share.

The ownership transfer contract did not include any obligation to invest in environmental protection. In fact, the new owner was even allowed to reactivate the old plants. Citizens and environmentalists believe the very activation of these old plants such as Koksara (dedicated to the production of metallurgical coke) was the main cause of increased pollution. ArcelorMittal Zenica prefers to highlight the large investments made in the modernization of production and gradual recovery from pollution.

Politicians, Environmentalists and Doctors

Politicians, environmentalists, and doctors have different opinions on the possible causes of increasing cancer cases in Zenica. Sretko Radišić, of the Social Democrats (SDP), president of the canton-

al assembly, questioned on the possible influence of steel pollution on the deterioration of people's health, says that people tend to see environmental accidents everywhere: "We need to enforce rules and ensure employers' compliance, but also to keep the 3,000 jobs at the steel".

Dr. Suad Sivic, director of the Institute for Public Health of the Zenica-Dobo Canton, told the Sarajevo weekly Dani he believes that Mittal is not the main culprit: "I believe the period of activity of Mittal has been too short to say it caused the increased number of cancers, though



it certainly contributes. But Mittal is not the main culprit, which could instead be the country's socio-economic situation". One possible explanation, he adds, could be the improvement in the healthcare system: "The population's increasing awareness may be the cause of the discovery of a larger number of diseases. People go to the doctor and request examinations more often, so we discover more diseases than in the past. But it could also be a real trend, because of all we went through during the war and today's bad living conditions".

Environmentalist Hasan Kreho, however, has been collecting data on the increase in cancers in Zenica-Dobo for years. As an engineer, he has always been convinced that restarting the full production of steel had an effect on the population's health. In 2008, he got the first data from a source (which remains anonymous) who shared his concern for the spread of cancerous diseases in Zenica. Kreho believes that the main cause is that "since 2004, industrial plants were restarted without investing in protecting people's health from harmful emissions of pollutants".

"I think the government wanted to begin production at all costs, for political as well as personal motives and regardless of the consequences on people's health. We

know which matters in the technological processes of steel production can cause cancerous diseases. Unannounced inspections should check the internal measurements that all polluting industries would be required to comply with. But without a change in the policy of the federal government, which holds an 8% share in the property of the plant, and the application of the law that regulates the behavior of polluters, nothing will improve in Zenica". Kreho urges "the Government of the BiH Federation to face the truth and make sure that citizens of Zenica do the same".

Alarming Data on the State of Citizens' health

Another cause for concern lies in the high mortality rate and speed of cancer patients. According to the report by the Cantonal Institute of Public Health, 50 percent of patients died within a year: "The highest rate of deaths from malignant disease is in Breza, followed by Zenica and Visoko".

Obviously, the absolute number of patients and deaths is higher in Zenica, but the ratio between the number of patients and the total number of residents creates confusion and clashes between analysts, doctors, ecologists, and activists. The report says that 1,012 new patients were officially recorded in 2011. This figure includes 739 new patients and others that had not been registered. This is definitely not the total number of new patients, since registration comes after a given period from the diagnosis. 680 patients were recorded with serious malignant diseases (excluding skin cancer) and 739 with cases of skin cancer. Demographically, men (61.03%) outnumbered women (38.97%) and tumors showed a higher recurrence among people over 65 years old. The most frequent cancers include those of the trachea, bronchus, and lung (159), with men reporting a recurrence four times higher than women; colo-rectal, breast, female genitals, and prostate cancers follow. Men are mostly affected by cancers of the trachea, bronchus and lung, colon, prostate, and stomach; women by tumors of genitals, breast, trachea, bronchi and lungs, and colon.

"Among fatal cancers in 2011, the most frequent affected lungs and bronchi, stomach and large intestine, and liver. A high number of preventable and curable cancers resulted in the death of the patient (large intestine, breast, stomach,

female genitals...). Among men, the leading cause of death was lung cancer, followed by the tumor in the stomach and prostate, liver, and brain, while the most common causes of death for women were breast, lung, and liver cancer", emphasizes the Cantonal Institute for Public Health.

Tumors Are Now a Fact

Minister of Health Senka Balorda recently warned that the time has come to recognize that malignant diseases are increasing in the Canton of Zenica-Doboj. It speaks for itself - says the minister - that lung cancer is the first malignant disease in Zenica and Kakanj, traditional industrial districts of this territory. Surgeon Harun Drljevic, cantonal deputy and Eko forum



activist, has warned for years about the relationship between air pollution and increased cancers. Earlier this year Drljevic had already made it clear to journalists from the newspaper *Oslobodjenje*: "I recently heard scary data, and namely about an increase of patients with lung cancer. There is no need for special evidence, proof was already provided by the World Health Organization Office in Copenhagen about the carcinogenicity of some pollutants that are released into the air and various substances such as benzene, benzopyrene, cadmium, and lead. It is not a theory, it is a postulate".

He continues: "With prolonged exposure to these pollutants, as is the case in Zenica, an increase is normal in the number of cancer of various organs, depending on the specificities of pollutants. Namely, benzene causes problems at lungs and the urinary tract and interacts with human DNA, thus coming into contact with the fetus. Cadmium causes lung problems, lead damages the central nervous system, kidneys, liver... There is no need to provide special evidence and say that we are going to see an increase in the number of malignant diseases in the long term because of the phenomenon of sedimentation. We already do".

Prosecution Presents Evidence in Embassy Attack Trial

The judge in the case of Mevlid Jasarevic, who attacked the US embassy in Sarajevo, said the final words might be presented next month after the prosecution finishes presenting its material evidence. The prosecutor, Dubravko Campara, on November 12 presented several items of material evidence in the case of Jasarevic - who is charged alongside two others with organizing a terrorist attack on the US embassy in Sarajevo on October 28, 2011. The evidence comprised books found during raids on the northeastern village of Gornja Maoca, known as the centre of the hard-line Muslim Wahhabi community. Most are about issues of "jihad", or holy war, and about martyrdom, which the prosecutor added as contextual explanation for the attack.

While the prosecutor charges Jasarevic and the other two as members of a terrorist group, the defense, led by Senad Dupovac, denies charges of organized terrorism, describing the attack as the work of an individual. The prosecutor also gave evidence concerning the locals in Gornja Maoca, describing their way of life, and noting that of 78 persons from there, no one voted in the October elections, which was proven by data from the Central Electoral Commission. Describing the Gornja Maoca locals, he also said that according to the police in the nearby Brcko District, the locals do not bury their people according to state rules and use a forbidden location with no signs. The prosecutor said that such evidence casts light on the views of the community towards Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also on the authority of their leader, Nusret Imamovic. The defense objected that most of the prosecution evidence was about Gornja Maoca, not about the three defendants, Jasarevic, Emrah Fojnica and Munib Ahmetpahic, Jasarevic's alleged helpers. The defense said the presented evidence was irrelevant to the specific case and had nothing to do with the defendants or with their charges. Jasarevic, 23, is charged with shooting 105 bullets for some 50 minutes from an automatic rifle during which time he caused material damage to the building and wounded a policeman.

The defense admits that he shot at the US embassy but maintains that he never belonged to, or ran, an organized terrorist group.

Museums Network in South East Europe Established

South East European Museums Network, which will enhance cross-border cooperation between these cultural institutions, was established at a ministerial conference held in Skopje

The ministers of culture adopted a joint statement, enabling the Network to foster cooperation among national museums in South East Europe, and to develop projects at regional and international levels.

The event was co-organized by the Ministry of Culture of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as the current Chair-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECPP), the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat, and the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society.

Opening the event, Elizabeta Kanceska-Milevska, the Minister of Culture of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, said that this event clearly highlights affirmation and respect for different cultural expressions in all forms, management of cultural heritage, and strengthening of cultural tourism.

"We are actively concentrating our efforts on the promotion of principle of understanding and good neighbouring relations between SEE countries along with the networking of their institutions and entities in regional projects in different areas."

The current status of the region's national museums, as guardians of culture and heritage, models of their management and existing partnerships were also discussed at the meeting.



Participants of the ministerial conference National Museums in South East Europe - Status, Management and Partnerships, in Skopje

The RCC Secretary General, Hido Biscevic, emphasized that museums were best positioned to explain the present and portray the future by means of presenting specific objects and stories inherited from the past.

"At the same time, as the museums in the region also suffer cutbacks from governmental and social changes, they should

form alliances and develop cross-border cooperation and programmes. Preserving and further improving multi-cultural harmony and inter-religious relations are of a particular importance for the entire region, especially the Western Balkans."

The conference gathered ministers of culture from South East Europe, directors of national museums, as well as representative of the European Commission, the RCC Task Force on Culture and Society, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Cooperation in the field of cultural heritage in South East Europe has been placed high on the agenda of the RCC Strategy and Work Programme 2011-2013; therefore, the organization will continue assisting relevant national institutions, among which museums play a special role, in developing closer links and concrete forms of regional cooperation.

UN Chief Hails "Constructive" Kosovo Talks

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's quarterly report welcomes advances in Serbia-Kosovo talks and expresses hopes that it will lead to total normalisation of relations and lasting peace, reports BIRN. In his regular quarterly report, UN Secretary General encouraged Serbia and Kosovo to continue their EU-led dialogue and move ahead in applying existing agreements.

"I hail the assurances received from Belgrade and Pristina regarding their readiness and devotion to continuing their strong engagement in the EU brokered dialogue and resolving disputed issues via peaceful means and preserving their joint European prospects," Ban Ki-moon said. The report is due to be reviewed by the Security Council on November 27.

In the report, which covers July to

October 2012, Ki-moon noted positive efforts to implement agreements reached through the dialogue held under EU auspices.

EU-mediated talks in Brussels started in March 2011, three years after Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008.

Serbia has vowed never to recognise Kosovo as a state, but says it is open to deals that improve daily lives on both sides of the [from Serbia's point of view unrecognised] border.

So far, the two sides have reached deals on freedom of movement, university diplomas, regional representation and on trade. But not all the deals have been implemented.

Over the past several months, the two sides have moved to overcome the obstacles that arose from different interpreta-

tions of the agreements, the report said. The Kosovo and Serbia leaders, Hashim Thaci and Ivica Dacic, held two "historic meetings" in Brussels on October 19 and November 7 to discuss relations between the two countries.

The UN chief said he was looking forward to the continuation of the dialogue and he hopes that incentives will be created for the two sides to move towards total normalisation of relations and lasting peace.

Turning to the security situation, Ban Ki-moon described it as relatively calm, especially in the sometimes volatile Serb-run north of Kosovo.

The northern part of Kosovo, which borders Serbia, has experienced bouts of violence. The local population does not recognise Kosovo's independence, or the ethnic Albanian-led government in Pristina.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Sarajevo

Today: Rain. High 9C.

Tonight: Low 5C.

Friday: Fog. High close to 13C.

Banja Luka

Today: Rain. High 9C.

Tonight: Low 6C.

Friday: Cloudy. High close to 10C.

Tuzla

Today: Cloudy. High 8C.

Tonight: Low 5C.

Friday: Cloudy. High close to 11C.

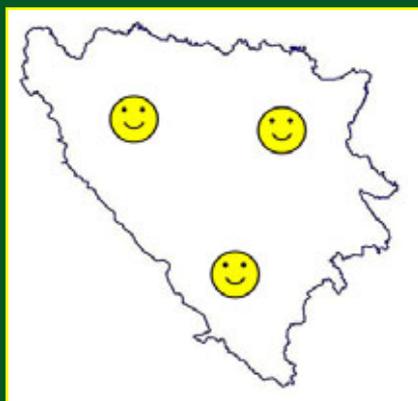
Mostar

Today: Rain. High 16C.

Tonight: Low 11C.

Friday: Partially cloudy. 19C.

BIO METEO



Air pollution in Sarajevo

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GLOBE IN PICTURES



Workers of Telefonica phone company take part in a demonstration blocking the traffic and protesting against the dismissals at their company ahead of a general strike in Barcelona, Spain



A boy carries a cross during a religious procession to commemorate "The Day of 100,000 Martyrs" in Tbilisi



A Pakistani Hindu girl holds an earthen lamp while decorating an area of her house to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights



Clouds obscure the moon passing in front of the sun as it approaches a full solar eclipse in the northern Australian city of Cairns

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