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30 June 1992/

- extremism -

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
 MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
 STATE SECURITY DEPARTMENT
 DB /State Security/ DEPARTMENT CENTRE OF SREMSKA MITROVICA
 RUMA SECTION
 23 June 1992

OFFICIAL NOTE

On 20 June 1992 a Local Citizens' Meeting was held in Hrtkovci, Ruma SO /Municipality/. The meeting was attended by some 300 people, including 30 with regulated residence in Hrtkovci. Others were refugees from SRK /Republic of Serbian Krajina/, RH /Republic of Croatia/ and BH. The meeting was called by Ostoja SIBINČIĆ, a resident of Hrtkovci who organized forcible expulsion of Croats and Hungarians from Hrtkovci, and by Triva IVKOVIĆ from Sremska Mitrovica, president of *Solidarnost* /Solidarity/.

At the very beginning of the Local Citizens' Meeting, the refugees started chanting: "Croats and Hungarians, out! Ustashas out!", and so forth, after which about ten residents of Croatian ethnicity left the meeting. The meeting was held under enormous pressure and threats of the attending refugees, who demanded that members of the MZ /local commune/ organs be elected also from among the refugees who have not regulated their permanent residence. Given that candidates for the MZ Assembly were proposed and elected by the refugees whose residence has not been regulated, the Local Citizens' Meeting was illegitimate. Out of 15 members of the MZ Assembly six were refugees with unregulated residence status, and they were nominated by refugees with equally unregulated residence status.

After the Local Citizens' Meeting, the newly elected illegitimate MZ Assembly held a meeting. At that meeting Ostoja SIBINČIĆ said that now they had come to power and no one could stop them from achieving their goal – to expel all Croats, Hungarians and even some Serbs from Hrtkovci. From now and until 28 June 1992 they should put on elderly households and throw owners out of their houses, since the police will not be allowed to interfere in "the work of the MZ Assembly". He pointed out that he would not accept any directives from the authorities of the Ruma SO, or Serbia for that matter. To exercise their power they intend to disband the temporarily established police station and thus, under the cover of the Civilian Protection, set up their own police force that would protect interests of the refugees. SIBINČIĆ went on to say that he had got everything under his control and that there were some things that he was not allowed to tell even them.

At that same meeting Triva IVKOVIĆ from Sremska Mitrovica said that they should change the names of the village and the streets, urgently seize power from the police,

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take over weapons from the MZ (three pistols and a carbine), set up a village police, and ensure body guards for SIBINČIĆ to protect him from discontented Croats.

After the meeting a paramilitary unit was established for the protection of Serbs; it is commanded by a certain ĐURIĆ from Šabac, a military retiree, and Svetozar TODORVIĆ aka Cveja from Hrtkovci, who participated in the fightings in Slavonia as a volunteer. For now, they are armed with personal weapons. This unit also includes a unit for the silent liquidation of Croats and Hungarians, and its commander is Rade ČAKMAK (an individual known to the SDB /State Security Service/ for his extremist conduct). By liquidating certain Croats they would create terror and panic and speed up departure.

On 22 June 1992, on SIBINČIĆ's order, a list was made of the remaining residents in Hrtkovci village, which additionally upset the remaining residents.

SIBINČIĆ is in contact with refugees from the areas of Podravska Slatina, Slavenska Požega and Virovitica, and he wants to accommodate them in Hrtkovci, Nikinci, Platičevo and Ruma. All these refugees who have lately been throwing out even owners from their houses, have regulated their temporary residence in the area of Baranja, where they were given vacant houses.

Rade ČAKMAK contacted Nenad MUŠICKI aka Šaca from Ruma and agreed with him that the latter would select for him ten young male refugees who would exact reprisals against the Croats in Ruma to speed up their departure.

Some 400 refugees are expected to arrive around 28 June 1992 and be accommodated in Nikinci and Platičevo by *Solidarnost*, the "Hrtkovci Information Bureau for Refugees". If no peaceful solution is found, they will advocate forced entry into the houses of the Croats and Hungarians. It is important to point out that not even Serbs are spared of this violent behaviour and pressure; they live in fear, feeling that they are not adequately protected by the legal authorities and the police. SIBINČIĆ openly threatens certain people, advising them to remove their children from the village; even people who volunteered for several months on the fronts in Croatia are not spared from SIBINČIĆ's threats.

We have informed the DPF /expansion unknown/ of Ruma SO about the above.

In the period to come we intend to monitor via Service positions the incriminating activities and deviant behaviour of SIBINČIĆ who is obviously working to establish a parallel authority in the area of Hrtkovci, Nikinci and Platičevo, and that represents a direct threat to the constitutional order in Serbia. We will be providing you with information in due time.

We informed you about the above-mentioned persons in the previous period.

Operative,
/signed/

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