

Freedom of Information request - 0275-17 - Electronic digest

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 29 March 2016 10:34
To: Edward Ferguson [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: More reactions to Karadzic's verdict
Security label: OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

Ambassador,

[OMITTED - not relevant]

The verdict to Seselj is likely to set us back to negative discourse again on Thursday.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 29 March 2016 17:07
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: Croatia's reactions to Šešelj - is Croatia going to block Serbia's bid?

[REDACTED – s.40]

Croatia wholeheartedly welcomed the ICTY sentence to Karadžić, but it has gotten unnerved by the court's decision to let Vojislav Šešelj listen to his ICTY ruling on Thursday from home – and directed some of the criticism on Serbia, too, with a DPM claiming that "Serbia should have arrested and extradited him" nevertheless. The developments have reignited calls for Croatia to effectively block Serbia's EU bid over its failure to face its own war crimes; the Foreign Minister acknowledged that Croatia might condition Serbia's accession process, even though he refuses to call it a blockade.

Detail

1. [OMITTED – not relevant]
2. That ruling was overshadowed, however, by reports that Vojislav Šešelj is allowed not to appear in The Hague for his own ruling on Thursday. Šešelj, who has been tried for the war crimes he allegedly commanded in Croatia too as part of the Greater Serbia scheme, was temporarily released on the medical grounds in November 2014. He has since been at large in Belgrade. Ahead of the ruling, ICTY said that he did not have to present at the ruling and has offered him to listen to it through a video link.
3. ICTY decision has infuriated many in Croatia, which has gone a thorny process of EU accession negotiations, particularly over the arrest, extraditions and prosecutions of its own people charged with alleged war crimes. The DPM Božo Petrov was the first to react, referring his criticism to Serbia: "Instead of immediately arresting and extraditing him, Serbia acts as if he is being charged for a minor traffic incident," he wrote on his Facebook page. "Croatia was blocked (during its EU talks) for much less important stuff," he added.

PM Orešković said he was convinced that Serbia “would make the right decision,” linking it to Serbia’s desire to join the EU. Influential HDZ MEP, Andrej Plenković, emphasised that ICTY “made mistake” when it released Šešelj in the first place.” Documenta, an NGO that supports war crimes trials, accused ICTY of “capitulating before Šešelj” and therefore putting in doubt the ultimate goal of the court. The rightist Party of Rights requested that Croatia now blocks Serbia’s EU bid.

[OMITTED – not relevant]

Comment

[REDACTED – s.27]

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: Diptel SARAJEVO
Sent: 30 March 2016 12:09
To: Diptel FCO
Subject: BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA: REACTIONS TO KARADIC VERDICT [DIPTTEL 1601732]
Security label: OFFICIAL

Diptel SARAJEVO (Sensitive)
Foreign & Commonwealth Office Diplomatic Telegram

[OMITTED - not relevant]

10. Meanwhile, Serbia is awaiting the verdict on 31 March of Radicals leader Vojislav Šešelj. On the day of Karadzic’s verdict, Šešelj held a rally, drawing together anti-Western supporters and pro-Russian hangers on.

[OMITTED - not relevant]

Comment

[REDACTED – s.27]

[OMITTED - not relevant]

EDWARD FERGUSON
Authorised

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 30 March 2016 14:16
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: ICTY: Vojislav Šešelj
Security label: OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED – s.40],

Happy to send a tweet tomorrow on the Šešelj case. I will wait to hear from you on the judgment tomorrow morning.

[OMITTED - not relevant]

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 30 March 2016 11:44
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: FW: ICTY: Vojislav Šešelj

FYI, tweet request

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 30 March 2016 11:23
To: PS Minister Anelay - Action
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: ICTY: Vojislav Šešelj

PS/Baroness Anelay,

On 31 March at 09:00 BST, ICTY will deliver its verdict against **Vojislav Šešelj (Serbia)**. **Šešelj** is charged with three counts of crimes against humanity and six counts of violations of the laws or customs of war (war crimes). This is the longest running and most controversial ICTY case. Šešelj is the former Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and the Founder of the Serbian Renewal Party. Šešelj was released from custody on medical grounds in 2014 after serving 11 years. He has repeatedly criticised the Tribunal and said he would not travel to The Hague to hear this verdict. ICTY invited him to appear via video link.

[REDACTED – s.35]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: Diptel ZAGREB
Sent: 30 March 2016 16:54
To: Diptel FCO
Subject: BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA: REACTIONSTO KARADIC VERDICT [DIPTTEL 1601732]
Security label: OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

[OMITTED - not relevant]

2. However, to a degree the sentencing of Karadzic has been overshadowed by reports that the Serbian nationalist extremist Vojislav Šešelj has been given permission not to appear in person in The Hague for the ruling in his own case on 31 March. Šešelj, who has been tried for war crimes committed in Croatia for which he allegedly had command responsibility, was temporarily released on medical grounds in November 2014. This latest ICTY decision has infuriated many in Croatia, especially given the prominence of ICTY-related war crimes issues in Croatia's EU accession process. MOST DPM Petrov accused Serbia of behaving as if Seselj was "being charged with a minor traffic violation", adding that "Croatia was blocked (during its EU process) for much less important stuff." Influential HDZ MEP, Andrej Plenković, asserted that ICTY "made a mistake" when it released Šešelj in the first place. Documenta, an NGO that supports war crimes trials, accused ICTY of "capitulating before Šešelj" and therefore putting in doubt the ultimate goal of the court.
3. PM Oreskovic has hinted at links between the handling of the Seselj case and Serbia's EU process.

[OMITTED - not relevant]

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 11:07
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: Re: CLEARED: Press lines ICTY Seselj OFFICIAL

CLASSIFICATION:OFFICIAL

[REDACTED – s.40]

He was cleared of everything. [REDACTED - s.27]. The Prosecution will undoubtedly appeal, so it's not the end of the matter. But that's obviously not going to be the story today.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2016 10:40 AM
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: CLEARED: Press lines ICTY Seselj

[REDACTED – s.40]

We see he has been acquitted on all charges. Presumably our expectation was that he was going to be convicted of some charges?

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 08:40
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: CLEARED: Press lines ICTY Seselj

[REDACTED – s.40]

Thanks for this. I should have mentioned previously that I think there is a good chance the decision will not be unanimous [REDACTED s.27] I don't think a split decision will affect the press lines as a conviction is a conviction, but it might be a question that is asked.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 30 March 2016 14:15
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: CLEARED: Press lines ICTY Seselj

All – attached is the final version of the press lines for the Seselj's judgment.

[REDACTED – s.40] - Very many thanks to you and your team in Media Office for all your help with the recent ICTY activities. I'll update you in the morning with the judgment.

Many thanks

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 30 March 2016 13:02
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: RESENDING: ACTION: Press lines: ICTY Seselj to be cleared by Media Office

Hi [REDACTED – s.40]

Thanks, we spoke. You're deliberately using similar lines and are not expecting there to be much interest in this case. So these lines are for reactive use only. The tweets you are planning from Baroness Anelay are:-

[REDACTED – s.35]

If it gets more pick up, we can always return to doing something more proactive. But happy with this approach for now. Also happy with the press lines (although there's a comma in the wrong place in the second sentence).

Thanks

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 30 March 2016 12:49
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: RESENDING: ACTION: Press lines: ICTY Seselj to be cleared by Media Office

Hi [REDACTED – s.40]

Thank you for letting me know. I think I need to spell out what MICT stands for: "Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals" (after the question about where Seselj will be imprisoned").

Thanks

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 30 March 2016 12:28
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: RESENDING: ACTION: Press lines: ICTY Seselj to be cleared by Media Office

Hello [REDACTED – s.40]

We are taking a look at these now and will come back to you shortly.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 30 March 2016 12:11
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RESENDING: ACTION: Press lines: ICTY Seselj to be cleared by Media Office

Dear All,

This version has been cleared by [REDACTED – s.40]

Thanks

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 30 March 2016 11:17
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: ACTION: Press lines: ICTY Seselj to be cleared
Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED – s.40],

We spoke this morning. Please find attached press lines for the upcoming ICTY's judgment in the case against Vojislav Šešelj. The judgment will be announced from 9am (BST) on Thursday 31 March.

Grateful if you could clear these quickly, so that we can finalise and share with Posts today.

As I mentioned, Baroness Anelay's portfolio covers international criminal justice [REDACTED – s.35]

Many thanks
[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 11:50
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]; DL IOD - ICTY (Sensitive)
Subject: RE: Update Press line: ICTY judgment against Vojislav Šešelj

Hi [REDACTED – s.40]

Thanks for this update, we're content with the below and will update lines as necessary.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 11:25
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Update Press line: ICTY judgment against Vojislav Šešelj

Hi [REDACTED – s.40],

I've cleared this with [REDACTED – s.40]

[REDACTED – s.35]

Many thanks
[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 11:01
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]; DL IOD - ICTY (Sensitive)
Subject: RE: Update Press line: ICTY judgment against Vojislav Šešelj

[REDACTED – s.40]

How can we say perpetrators have been held to account when he's been acquitted?

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 10:59
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: Update Press line: ICTY judgment against Vojislav Šešelj

[REDACTED – s.40],

In light of the judgment against Šešelj: he has been acquitted on all counts. I have tweaked the following press line, please let me know if you're content:

[REDACTED – s.35]

Many thanks

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 10:45
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Update for the Minister: ICTY judgment against Vojislav Šešelj

Hi [REDACTED – s.40]

I think we will need to update the line: [REDACTED – s.35]

Would you be able to review this? Also, it would be interesting to know more about the justification of the verdict so that we can see if we need any further lines.

Thanks in advance.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 10:39
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Update for the Minister: ICTY judgment against Vojislav Šešelj

Hi [REDACTED – s.40]

Interesting outcome. [REDACTED – s.40] will let you know if we receive many enquiries. Just to check – are you updating Lidington's office as well?

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 10:34
To: PS Minister Anelay - Action
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]; DL IOD - ICTY (Sensitive)
Subject: Update for the Minister: ICTY judgment against Vojislav Šešelj
Importance: High

P/S Anelay

This morning, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia delivered its judgment in the case against Vojislav Šešelj (Serbia). Šešelj was acquitted on all counts of crimes against humanity and all counts of violations of the laws or customs of war (war crimes).

Accordingly our press line, as agreed, will be:

[REDACTED – s.35]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 12:15
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: ACTION: Blog International Criminal Justice, to be cleared today
Security label: OFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED – s.40]

Here's my blog – grateful for your comments/approval. I need to submit this by cop today.

Happy to discuss.

Thank you,

[REDACTED – s.40]

[OMITTED - not relevant]

Lastly, we saw the ICTY's deliver its judgement against Vojislav Šešelj, the former Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and the Founder of the Serbian Radical Party (http://www.icty.org/x/cases/seselj/cis/en/cis_seselj_en.pdf). Šešelj was acquitted on all the charges brought against him. This is will be deeply disappointing for some.

[OMITTED - not relevant]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 13:02
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Thoughts on Seselj's verdict

[REDACTED – s.40]

This is taken from the ICTY site re Seselj case:

[s.21 - http://www.icty.org/x/cases/seselj/cis/en/cis_seselj_en.pdf]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 12:12
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Thoughts on Seselj's verdict

[REDACTED – s.40], thanks. I'll try to speak to [REDACTED – s.40], this afternoon. I don't think we know. I confess I don't know enough about the specifics of the case against him. But do we know this is the verdict, and if so how? In order to gauge reactions I think we need to know more about the case. [REDACTED – s.27.]

[REDACTED – s.40] – could you get me something on the charges he was facing please?

[REDACTED – s.40] – quick thoughts on reactions please?

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 11:46
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: Thoughts on Seselj's verdict

[REDACTED – s.40] rang to check what the Post's thoughts are on the verdict, what the reaction might be locally and in the region. [REDACTED – s.35]. [REDACTED – s.40] would really appreciate some feedback by mid-day tomorrow, and maybe even sooner if we think we might need lines.

[REDACTED – s.40] – guess you'll be replying to [REDACTED – s.40]?

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 14:44
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: Initial RS reactions to Seselj's verdict
Security label: OFFICIAL

[REDACTED – s.40]

Initial comments on Seselj's first instance verdict:

1. RS President Dodik (in statement for SRNA) said that he was not surprised with Seselj's verdict because it was clear from the process that ICTY prosecution lead 'an unfounded and political, and not a legal process'. 'Reading a verdict today to Seselj in ICTY confirmed the whole pointlessness of 'international justice' which was being promoted through this court. How else to explain the fact that one exhausting, marathon trial, as Seselj had, ended with this epilogue?' He thought that Seselj should be commended for perseverance, competence and readiness to come out a victor from an unfair trial and unequal conditions. 'I am sure that the Hague process for Seselj would contribute significantly to legal science but also to serve as yet another example of legal dishonour promoted by ICTY for years. By leaving voluntarily for ICTY he said he was going there to win over the Hague Tribunal, and he did'.
2. President of RS Veterans' Organization Milomir Savcic thought that an acquittal to Seselj would have a positive effect on the final verdict in the case against Radovan Karadzic, but also some other final verdicts to others, especially on the accounts related to joint criminal enterprise and political speech.
3. SDS issued a press release stating that even today's decision to acquit Seselj 'cannot amend the historical injustice done to him by keeping him in jail for twelve years without grounds'. 'The way that the process against Seselj was carried out and the length of incarceration, regardless of an acquittal today, is another proof that ICTY is a political institution'. SDS welcomed the decision of the two judges who did not succumb to general anti-Serb character of the court. 'We believe that in the second instance procedure to Karadzic the truth will prevail as well'.

4. Director of RS Centre for investigating war crimes and search for missing persons Milorad Kojic stated that with this verdict the concept of 'joint criminal enterprise' was entirely defeated and will have a positive effect on the second instance verdict to Radovan Karadzic because his verdict mentions Seselj as a member of joint criminal enterprise.

More reactions are expected this evening.

[OMITTED - not relevant]

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 15:14
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: Initial RS reactions to Seselj's verdict
Security label: OFFICIAL

[REDACTED – s.40]

You phoned to ask about initial reactions to the Seselj verdict. They are attached, with thanks to [REDACTED – s.40], from both sides of the IEHL.

The nature of the case, and the nature of the split judgement (with the Italian judge strongly dissenting) are likely to make for a greater reaction here than was the case with the Karadzic verdict. It may also indirectly, create a groundswell reaction to the Karadzic verdict. [REDACTED - s.27] Reactions on the Federation side, by contrast, are genuinely shocked. Izetbegovic has yet to make a statement [REDACTED - s.27].

We're contributing to a diptel, led by The Hague, with Belgrade, which I believe you'll see tomorrow.

Seen from here, any statement we put out will need to be carefully worded to not exacerbate, or play into, any of these reactions. There may be a case for saying nothing at all. The EU locally are releasing a statement, which I've forwarded. Happy to talk through if easier.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 15:22
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: reactions in the news - Seselj
Security label: OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

Melika Mahmutbegovic, FBiH Vice President: It is impossible to understand the reasons and justification that the court presented with the aim of acquittal, if we are aware that it is about a

person who took part in the aggression of BiH and Croatia, for which there is countless proof. It's necessary to look into details of today's verdict from the Hague, and then BiH needs to urgently decide how to respond to this shameful verdict.

Democratic Front believes that the acquittal of the chetnik ideologist and duke Seselj on all 9 counts of the indictment definitely abolishes the last trace of hope in the objectivity of the Hague Tribunal

Vasvija Vidovic (defence lawyer for few "prominent" Bosniaks that were on trial before the ICTY): Prosecutor's office should have done a better job and to wait for the 2nd instance decision.

Stjepan Mesic (ex Croatian president, taking part in a panel as part of our project on mapping genocide tonight): Seselj's verdict politically motivated and partly a compensation of Europe to Serbia on its path to the EU. Court has probably passed this kind of verdict to give a chance to Serbia to reach European standards.

Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Zvezdic: You caught us by surprise, I can't understand how someone who was proven to have taken part in the planning of everything that has taken place during the aggression of BiH, be acquitted. But we need to see really what the final decision looks like.

Fikret Grabovica, chair of the association of the parents of children killed in 1992-1995 : The court was close to concluding that Seselj's (volunteer soldiers recruited by Seselj) were part of the peace forces in the Balkans, who sometimes made mistakes, like the Dutch battalion in Srebrenica. I am in shock.

Sinan Alic, Chairman of Foundation Truth, Justice, Reconciliation: This is the fall of the international justice. UN has to think about the crime they are committing. This is a disaster. ICTY is either politically motivated or has no clue.

Jasmim Meskovic, Chair of war camp inmates: A man who's had units, logistics, mobilized people, sent people to front lines, committed crimes, has been acquitted. It is unbelievable.

Muira Subasic, Chair of the Association "Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves": He is free and now they will be indicting our children who stayed alive as their staying alive is what they will be blamed for. This is shown in the case of Naser Oric and others. It is an attempt to equalize victims with criminals. We'll see what our smart elite and intellectuals will do.

Jovan Divjak, retired Army BiH general and Executive director of association "Education builds BiH": I am offended, as a civilized person, citizen of the planet, European, Bosnian and Herzegovinian and an anti-fascist. It is being confirmed that Hague, simply, does not punish fascism in the Balkans, and one of the protagonists of that was Seselj.

Press Lines: Vojislav Šešelj judgment - 31 March 2016

Top Lines

[REDACTED – s.35]

BACKGROUND

1. Vojislav Šešelj is the former Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and the Founder of the Serbian Radical Party.
 2. This is the longest running and most controversial ICTY case. In February 2003 Šešelj surrendered to the ICTY. His trial commenced in November 2007 and closing arguments finished on 20 March 2012. In November 2014, the Trial Chamber ordered Šešelj's provisional release on humanitarian grounds due to the deterioration of his health. He was transferred to Serbia on 12 November 2014. In March 2015 the Appeals Chamber ordered the Trial Chamber immediately to revoke his provisional release. However, Šešelj declared he would not return to The Hague, and the Trial Chamber never made the order, on grounds that it needed to seek further information on Šešelj's medical condition. The trial judgment in the case of Šešelj is scheduled to be rendered in The Hague on Thursday, 31 March 2016 at 9am (BST).
 3. Šešelj is charged with three counts of crimes against humanity and six counts of violations of the laws or customs of war (i.e. war crimes) including murder, torture and cruel treatment, and destruction to religious or educational institutions.
 4. He has repeatedly criticised the Tribunal and said that he will not travel to The Hague. The ICTY have ordered the Serbian authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure Šešelj's appearance in The Hague on the judgment date, but recently invited Šešelj to attend by video link if he does not appear in person. Šešelj has said he will not return voluntarily and refused to comment on the video link proposal.
 5. Any appeals will go through the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT). Further information is available here: http://www.icty.org/x/cases/seselj/cis/en/cis_seselj_en.pdf
 6. In parallel, the ICTY is pursuing contempt charges and has issued arrest warrants against two lawyers serving on the Šešelj defence team and a third individual for allegedly threatening protected witnesses and blackmailing/bribing them not to testify. Their surrender is being considered by the High Court in Belgrade.
-

From: [REDACTED – s.40]

Sent: 31 March 2016 14:17

To: [REDACTED – s.40]

Subject: Seselj

Security label: OFFICIAL

From Brx- as approved by both cabs:

- The EU respects the decision of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and encourages Serbia to continue its full cooperation with it.
 - The EU does not comment on individual judgements of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.
 - We trust that Serbia will continue to work towards reconciliation, normalisation and good neighbourly relations, values the EU stands for.
-

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 14:02
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: Draft Seselj Diptel

All

I attach a draft Diptel following this morning decision. Could you please feed in comments on the text, and any reactions, by 11am Hague time tomorrow morning? I am on leave tomorrow, so my colleague [REDACTED – s.40] will finalise and send. To make life easier for her, could I please ask that you provide text that can be simply inserted into the Diptel itself.

Many thanks

[REDACTED – s.40]

[s.21 – ICTY Trial Judgment – 31 March - <http://www.icty.org/en/press/trial-judgement-in-the-case-of-vojislav-seselj-delivered>]

From: Diptel The Hague
Sent: 01 April 2016 10:00
To: Diptel FCO
Subject: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE HAGUE QUARTERLY FORWARD LOOK
Security label: OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

Diptel THE HAGUE (Sensitive)
Foreign & Commonwealth Office Diplomatic Telegram

[OMITTED - not relevant]

Seselj

13. On 31 March, far-right Serb nationalist Vojislav Seselj was acquitted of three counts of crimes against humanity and six counts of war crimes. This has been the longest and most controversial case in the ICTY's history; Seselj surrendered himself to the Court in 2003, and the trial against him commenced in November 2007. In 2014 the Court allowed him to return to Serbia for cancer treatment, and he has refused to return to The Hague to attend the hearing, or to participate via video-link from Belgrade. We expect the Prosecution will appeal the decision. Contempt charges against his legal team are still being pursued, but Serbia has not yet arrested those charged.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]

Sent: 01 April 2016 10:41
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Draft Seselj Diptel OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

All

Thanks – we might feed in something today and update on Monday (I am away on Monday, but [REDACTED – s.40] is back in the office then and [REDACTED – s.40] our political advisor, is around).

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 01 April 2016 10:02
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Draft Seselj Diptel OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

All,

We'll go ahead and issue the Diptel from The Hague later this morning and will add in a final line to say that a diptel with reactions from Sarajevo, Zagreb and Belgrade will follow.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 01 April 2016 09:54
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Draft Seselj Diptel

[REDACTED – s.40] et al,

I agree and here it will be interesting to see if the Croatian Serbs react (so far they are the only people who have not). [REDACTED – s.40] will feed in on Monday (when I am away but [REDACTED – s.40] is here.)

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 01 April 2016 09:35
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Draft Seselj Diptel

All,

I agree. And I'm happy to hold the pen from Belgrade.

On timings, reactions from the Serbs are coming in rather slowly. My instinct is to wait until Monday and issue a draft to Sarajevo and Zagreb then. We were rushing to get something in today and

thought we'd miss comments and analysis in the press over the weekend. I'd rather go for a full picture on Monday, than speculate and guess today.

Do others agree?

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 01 April 2016 09:31
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Draft Seselj Diptel
Importance: High

[REDACTED – s.40]

Having seen the draft from The Hague, which is great (one comment –[REDACTED – s.27]), we actually think that it may now be better to do a regional reactions diptel (Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb) and get The Hague went sent now.

Reasons are that the reactions – which we initially thought would be a paragraph on the assumption of a different verdict – are worth reporting in greater detail. There has, for example, been an incident yesterday where Seselj supporters marched towards Srebrenica celebrating the verdict, which has caused concern and raised tensions.

Views please from Belgrade and Zagreb and who would like to coordinate? We can – though logically it might be best from Belgrade, given Seselj is based there?

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 01 April 2016 09:02
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Draft Seselj Diptel

[REDACTED – s.40]

We are putting together some reactions here, but the government is holding a press conference on the verdict at 1130 Serbia time. Could we delay the deadline for sending in comments? It wouldn't make sense not to include the official reaction.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 31 March 2016 23:52
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Draft Seselj Diptel

[REDACTED – s.40]

Is it worth a sentence before the “Reactions” section mentioning (for those who do not know) that Seselj has been back in Belgrade for some time for medical reasons? We will let [REDACTED – s.40] have the stuff on (v negative) Croatian reactions early on tomorrow,

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: Diptel THE HAGUE

Sent: 01 April 2016 10:48

To: Diptel FCO

Subject: OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE ICTY: SESELJ ACQUITTED [DIPTTEL 1601795]

Diptel THE HAGUE (Sensitive)

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Diplomatic Telegram

Summary

ICTY acquits, by majority, far right Bosnian Serb nationalist politician and former Serbian Deputy PM Vojislav Seselj for war crimes and crimes against humanity. This brings to an end the longest running and most controversial trial at the ICTY. [REDACTED –s.27]. Prosecution likely to appeal.

1. On 31 March, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia acquitted, by majority, the Bosnian Serb far right nationalist and former Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia Vojislav Seselj. Seselj, on temporary release in Belgrade since November 2014 due to cancer treatment, rejected the Court’s order that he return to The Hague for the verdict. Having already spent 12 years in custody, he is now a free man.

THE DECISION

2. Seselj was acquitted of: three counts of crimes against humanity including the deportation or forcible transfer of tens of thousands of Croat, Bosniak and other non-Serb civilians from large areas in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia; and six counts of war crimes including murder of Croats, Bosniaks and other non-Serbs, torture and destruction of religious and educational institutions. The majority (Judges from France and Senegal), with the Italian Judge strongly dissenting, found that Seselj’s broader plan of a “Greater Serbia” was political rather than criminal; and that there was insufficient evidence to find an affiliation between Seselj and paramilitary groups. The majority also found that the Prosecution had failed to show that there was a “widespread and systematic attack against the non-Serb population in large areas of Croatia and Bosnia” (an essential element for the commission of crimes against humanity), or that the fleeing of non-Serbs from particular villages was attributable to acts of Serb violence. Throughout the judgment, the majority criticised the approach of the Prosecution to their presentation of evidence, referring to “an entire series of shortcomings” and “cases of confusion”. The Prosecution have said that they will review the judgment carefully before deciding whether to appeal.

THE DISSENT

3. The dissenting Italian Judge was scathing in her view of the majority's decision, stating that there was "insufficient reasoning, or no reasoning at all" for most of their findings. She went on to say that the majority had "set aside all the rules of international humanitarian law that existed before the creation of the Tribunal and all the applicable law established since the inception of the Tribunal in order to acquit Vojislav Seselj".

THE CONTROVERSY

4. This has been the longest trial in the ICTY's 23 year history; it is now one of the most expensive acquittals in the history of international criminal law; and at 100 pages one of the Tribunal's shortest judgments. The case has been dogged by controversy ever since Seselj surrendered himself in 2003. From the outset he refused to cooperate with the Court, going on hunger strike, and refusing to enter a plea. In 2005, he announced in Court that the Judges trying him were fit only to perform oral sex on him, and that the then Prosecutor Carla del Ponte was a prostitute. A "not guilty" plea was eventually entered on his behalf, and the Judges refused his application for self-representation. This was later overturned and he was allowed to conduct his own defence, though not before a march took place in Serbia of 40,000 people condemning the Tribunal's treatment of him. In 2009, the trial was halted due to Prosecution allegations of witness intimidation, rejected by Seselj; it restarted a year later. In 2011, Seselj filed an application for acquittal following the conclusion of the Prosecution case. This was rejected by the majority, with the French Judge dissenting [REDACTED – s.27]. Seselj then refused to present a defence, and the parties entered closing arguments in 2012. During his trial, he was convicted twice for contempt of court for revealing the names of protected witnesses, amounting to a total sentence of almost five years. There are currently three arrest warrants pending for contempt of court against three of Seselj's associates, including two members of his defence team.

5. But the most controversial episode in this case came in 2013 when the former Danish Judge in the case, Frederik Harhoff, wrote a private email to 50 people, subsequently leaked to a Danish newspaper, complaining about the Tribunal's recent acquittals, and the pressure allegedly put on fellow Judges by the then ICTY President, Judge Ted Meron. [REDACTED –s.27]. Seselj filed an application for Harhoff's disqualification, which the Tribunal granted on the basis that Harhoff had demonstrated an "unacceptable appearance of bias in favour of conviction". The replacement Judge from Senegal took over a year to read into the case, before being able to join the other Judges in deliberating.

6. [REDACTED –s.27]

7. Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb will report on reactions from the region early next week.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]

Sent: 01 April 2016 12:08

To: [REDACTED – s.40]

Subject: RE: reactions to Seselj's verdict and incident in Srebrenica

Security label: OFFICIAL

[REDACTED – s.40]

Many thanks for this. Really appreciate all the timely reporting on this. [OMITTED - not relevant]

Best wishes,

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]

Sent: 01 April 2016 11:06

To: [REDACTED – s.40]

Subject: FW: reactions to Seselj's verdict and incident in Srebrenica

[REDACTED – s.40]

FYI just to note there was an incident in Srebrenica.

We will use some of this as our contribution to Diptel.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]

Sent: 01 April 2016 10:46

To: DL Sarajevo Political

Subject: reactions to Seselj's verdict and incident in Srebrenica

[REDACTED – s.40]

Here is my contribution to the diptel (that Belgrade is drafting for Monday), but copied to all to note:

As expected the most high-ranking BiH/FBiH officials and relevant political parties commented late yesterday afternoon and evening.

Reactions among the Bosniak and Croat public on acquittal of all charges for the Vojislav Seselj prompted a wave of outrage across the region and mostly interpreted as an insult for thousands of non-Serb victims.

So, the Chairman of the BiH Presidency Bakir Izetbegovic and leader of the strongest **Bosniak** political party commented that he is surprised by this acquittal and that "it was absolutely clear that Seselj organised, armed, inspired and incited criminals to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia and commit crimes and ethnic cleansing".

Dragan Covic, Croat member of the BiH Presidency and HDZ Leader stated he was not surprised by the verdict, adding that Seselj is successfully defying the court and people forget the crimes committed in BiH. The Court expressed its stance and I still have the same opinion about this Court and I will not change my mind. I am afraid that all activities related to judiciary, activities pending trials and analyses after the trials are purely political", concluded Covic.

Dr Bozo Ljubic, former leader of the HDZ 1990 and currently member of the R Croatia's Assembly from BiH as the Diaspora representative, said that the acquittal of Vojislav Seselj is shocking and scandalous, arguing that one could predict such an outcome. Namely, Ljubic says the fact is that the Prosecutor's Office of ICTY failed to issue indictments against main actors from the then JNA (Yugoslav People's Army) and that the ICTY acquitted (former Serbian senior security officials) Jovica Stanisic and Franko Simatovic shows that the ICTY was probably instructed from the start to make sure Serbia is not connected to aggressions against Croatia and BiH.

Denis Zvizdic, Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers said that he could not understand how a person who participated in the aggression against BiH could be acquitted, while the statements of sums most Bosniak reactions to the ICTY's ruling: "as madness squared" "circus goes on" and "collapse of international justice".

"The hate speech of Vojislav Seselj from 1991 to 1993 encouraged and justified war crimes in Croatia and Bosnian and he has started doing it again", said Vlastimir Mijovic, Bosnian Serb and political analyst and journalist. In his opinion Seselj was not just a "loudmouth" how ICTY marked it, but a part of a "political dream, which was swiftly turned into an organised criminal enterprise" as proved in the Karadzic's and other ICTY cases.

[REDACTED – s.27]

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]

Sent: 01 April 2016 17:30

To: [REDACTED – s.40]

Subject: UPDATE Kosovo SAA and ICTY/Seselj verdict

Security label: OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

[REDACTED – s.40]

We spoke. With apologies for the delay, two WBE contributions to the Foreign Secretary's update on Kosovo and Bosnia.

[OMITTED - not relevant]

Bosnia: The acquittal on 31 March of far-right Serb nationalist Vojislav Seselj by ICTY has generated sharp reactions in Bosnia: jubilation amongst Bosnian Serbs and outrage amongst Bosniaks; with some inter-ethnic tension in Srebrenica and East Sarajevo overnight. The nature of the case and the split judgment mean reactions are set to be stronger than for the Karadzic verdict (last week). Our embassies in Belgrade and Sarajevo will track and report developments.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]

Sent: 04 April 2016 09:41

To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Seselj case – reactions CROATIA
Security label: OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

[REDACTED – s.40]

[OMITTED - not relevant]

[REDACTED – s.27]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 04 April 2016 10:32
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: Seselj case - reactions CROATIA

Thanks all,

I'm writing a draft now and will circulate in a while.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 04 April 2016 10:11
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: Seselj case - reactions CROATIA

[REDACTED – s.40]

Please see reactions and actions in Croatia in regard to the ICTY ruling in the Šešelj case:

In Croatia, there were reactions of shock and disgust, from the political left to the right, at official and public level, and including the key Croatian Serb leader. Due to the uproar – and Šešelj's tweet to President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović just hours after the ruling for her to „get ready, because I am coming soon to visit you officially – Croatian Interior Ministry issued a ban on Šešelj's entry to Croatia. The Ministry cited a potential for “public disturbance” and said that if he attempted to enter, he would be detained.

PM Tihomir Orešković, who heard about the ruling while in Vukovar, which was levelled to the ground by the Serb paramilitaries in 1991, declared it was “shameful” and “a slap to the face to all the victims.” He added that Šešelj „committed evil here in Vukovar and showed no regrets, back then or now. ICTY did not recognise a criminal enterprise led by Serbia and so the fascist policy of Greater Serbia has remained unpunished.” President Grabar-Kitarović said the acquittal of „one of the biggest villains in these territories is a huge blow to international law; it is indeed shameful.” She

announced that Croatia „cannot and will not“ accept the ruling and would do „everything in our power so that justice is served.“ Foreign Minister Kovač described the ruling as „shocking and humiliating to the victims,“ also saying that it would have a „devastating effect“ on the process of reconciliation in the former Yugoslavia.

Pupovac, leader of the main Croatian Serb political party, said the ruling „hurt the feelings of the victims“ and the ICTY failed to „create conditions for the feeling of justice, for reconciliation and mutual respect.“ He said the ruling would negatively affect relations between Croatians, Serbs and Bosniaks, while Šešelj`s current rhetoric „is fatal for Serbs ... and threatening – and humiliating – for the others.“

A prominent NGO Documenta, that has been working for years on reconciliation and war crimes prosecutions (and is often branded anti-Croatian by hardline nationalists) also expressed „shock,“ saying it was „the most self-defeating“ ruling so far by the ICTY which „contradicts“ all previous international courts`s rulings. Another NGO held a peaceful protest at the main Zagreb Square on the evening of 31 March in solidarity with the victims. Bojan Glavašević, ex-Deputy Minister of War Veterans and the son of a famous Croatian radio reporter slain in the wake of the fall of Vukovar, tried to comfort others by tweeting: „We have won over these people by the mere fact that we survived.“

Journalists, media commentators and public persons have been united in expressing anger with the ruling.

Croatia has also decided to act: It is now looking into ways to try Šešelj itself. The State Prosecutor`s Office said on 1 April that it is examining the ICTY ruling to see whether it could “act further” on its proceedings against Šešelj. Croatia in 2002 indicted Seselj, along with nine other Yugoslav Army and rebel Serb leaders (including Veljko Kadijević, Veselin Šljivančanin and Goran Hadžić) for alleged war crimes against civilians committed in Vukovar. Since ICTY has precedence over national judiciaries in the former Yugoslavia – in cases defendants are being prosecuted for the same crimes - Croatia had ceased its proceedings against Šešelj and others when ICTY began trying Šešelj. However, in light of the ruling, “and given the fact that The Hague indictment has been changed for several times, the State Prosecutor`s Office (DORH) will analyse the ruling to compare the charges from the ruling with those from Croatia`s indictment” to see if there is legal possibility to prosecute him in Croatia.

In whatever it plans to do as a response to the Šešelj ruling, the Government might have strong support in Croatian public: In a survey carried out by the renowned Ipsos polling agency, 94% of those interviewed said the ruling was `unjust`; 60% of them want Croatia to now block Serbia`s EU negotiations and 84% believe that Croatia should now try Šešelj itself.

For Comment

[REDACTED – s.27]

Best regards,

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]

Sent: 04 April 2016 15:51

To: [REDACTED – s.40]

Cc: [REDACTED – s.40]

Subject: RE: ICTY diptel

Security label: OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

[REDACTED – s.40]

Good, I think this conveys the message Edward wanted to send.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 04 April 2016 16:36
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: RE: ICTYdiptel OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE
Importance: High

All,

See last draft attached. I've had to be pretty brutal, given the length limits. Hopefully the substance has remained. But given the wide regional remit of this diptel, I would appreciate everyone's understanding if some of their comments didn't quite reach the final cut!

Any final comments to me in the next few moments. I'll be sending shortly.

Thanks again for all of your work on this. Much appreciated!

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]
Sent: 04 April 2016 13:38
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: ICTYdiptel
Importance: High

Dear all,

See attached draft DipTel on the Seselj verdict.

I have tried to compress the various inputs from all three posts. Some comments have inevitably been cut. In the editing phase. Please have a look and send comments back to me as soon as you can.

Many thanks for all of your excellent contributions,

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: Cathy Adams
Sent: 04 April 2016 16:30
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: FW: [EJIL: Talk!] The Sorry Acquittal of Vojislav Seselj

Security Label: OFFICIAL

[REDACTED – s.27]

[Article - s.21 - <https://www.ejiltalk.org/the-sorry-acquittal-of-vojislav-seselj/>]

From: [REDACTED – s.40]

Sent: 05 April 2016 11:40

To: [REDACTED – s.40]

Subject: FW: OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE WESTERN BALKANS/ICTY: REACTIONS TO SESELJ ACUITTAL [DIPTTEL 1601832]

Security Label: OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE

I'm sure you will have seen the Dip Tel on reactions to the Seselj convictions. To note the reaction from the Russian DPM:

He garnered support from Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who congratulated him via twitter, stating "I congratulate my friend on the victory! But, who will give back his health which was undermined by prison and public harassment?".

From: Diptel BELGRADE (Sensitive)

Sent: 04 April 2016 15:58

To: Diptel FCO (Sensitive)

Subject: OFFICIAL_SENSITIVE WESTERN BALKANS/ICTY: REACTIONS TO SESELJ ACQUITTAL [DIPTTEL 1601832]

Diptel BELGRADE (Sensitive)

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Diplomatic Telegram

Summary

ICTY acquits far-right former Serbian Deputy PM Vojislav Seselj of war crimes and crimes against humanity in a controversial ruling. Reactions in the region vary [REDACTED – s.27]. Victim groups genuinely shocked. Serbs feel partly vindicated, but Croats voice their anger. BE The Hague DipTel 1601795 outlined the legal background. Joint DipTel with BE Sarajevo and BE Zagreb.

1. On 31 March, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia acquitted by majority, former Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and leader of the Serbian Radical Party (SRS), Vojislav Seselj of all counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Serbian reactions

2. [REDACTED – s.27] Some media expressed the standpoint that Seselj's acquittal represented a failure in international law. This view was echoed by the more Western-orientated political commentators and analysts, who have expressed fears on the possible impact on regional reconciliation.

3. [REDACTED – s.27] He garnered support from Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who congratulated him via twitter, stating "I congratulate my friend on the victory! But, who will give back his health which was undermined by prison and public harassment?".

Croatian reactions

4. In Croatia, there were reactions of shock and disgust from across the political spectrum. PM Oreskovic described the verdict as “shameful” and “a slap to the face to all victims.” President Grabar-Kitarović said the acquittal of “one of the biggest villains in these territories is a huge blow to international law”.

5. Just hours after the verdict, Seselj referenced a sinister WW2 Chetnik chant by sending a tweet to President Grabar-Kitarovic, telling her to “get ready, because I am coming soon to visit you officially”. The Croatian Ministry of Interior then issued a ban on Šešelj’s entry to Croatia, citing the potential for public disturbance. The State Prosecutor’s Office said on 1 April that it is examining the ruling, to see whether to re-enact its own proceedings against Šešelj, suspended in 2002 due to the ICTY trial.

BiH reactions

[REDACTED – s.27]

[REDACTED – s.40]

United Nations – Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals – Press Release – 6 April

[s.21: <http://www.unmict.org/en/news/statement-mict-prosecutor-serge-brammertz-regarding-appeal-vojislav-seselj-trial-judgement>]

FCO ORAL QUESTIONS - TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2016

TOPICAL BRIEFING

KARADZIC AND SESELJ VERDICTS

TOP LINE(S):

- [OMITTED - not relevant]
- We recognise that many will be deeply disappointed with the verdict in the case of **Vojislav Seselj**. It has been reached by an international court through an independent judicial process. However, we respect the verdict. This has been an independent judicial process and the judges have made their decision based on the evidence put forward by the prosecution and defence.

KEY FACTS

[OMITTED - not relevant]

Seselj:

- On 31 March, ICTY acquitted by majority, former Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and leader of the Serbian Radical Party (SRS), Vojislav Seselj of all counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Seselj, on temporary release in Belgrade since November 2014 due to cancer treatment, rejected the Court's order that he return to The Hague for the verdict. Having already spent 12 years in custody, he is now a free man.
- This is the longest running and most controversial ICTY case. It is now one of the most expensive acquittals in the history of international criminal law and has stirred strong reactions in Croatia and Bosnia.
- The case has been dogged by controversy ever since Seselj surrendered himself in 2003. He refused to cooperate with the Court, going on hunger strike, and refusing to enter a plea. His trial commenced in November 2007 and closing arguments finished on 20 March 2012.
- In November 2014, the Trial Chamber ordered Šešelj's provisional release on humanitarian grounds due to the deterioration of his health. He was transferred to Serbia in Nov 2014.
- In March 2015 the Appeals Chamber ordered the Trial Chamber immediately to revoke his provisional release. However, Šešelj declared he would not return to The Hague, and the Trial Chamber never made the order, on grounds that it needed to seek further information on Šešelj's medical condition.
- [OMITTED - not relevant]

FURTHER BACKGROUND

- [OMITTED - not relevant]

Vojislav Šešelj is the former Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia and the Founder of the Serbian Radical Party.

Šešelj was charged with three counts of crimes against humanity and six counts of violations of the laws or customs of war (i.e. war crimes) including murder, torture and cruel treatment, and destruction to religious or educational institutions.

[REDACTED – s.40]

From: Helen Mulvein
Sent: 19 April 2016 20:20
To: [REDACTED – s.40]
Subject: ICTY - Seselj judgment - Croatia letter to UN Security Council 18 April

The attached letter from Croatia's President was circulated to UN Security Council members on 18 April. It details Croatia's disappointment with the ICTY's Seselj judgment, highlights then ICTY President Meron's October 2015 letter to the Council on Serbia's failure to hand over to the ICTY the three individuals indicted for witness intimidation/bribery in the case, and asks the Council's President to pay special attention to the successful closure of the ICTY's work while taking into account the reasons for its establishment and respect for the victims.

Helen

Helen Mulvein OBE | Legal Counsellor | United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations
One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza | 885 2nd Avenue | New York, NY 10017 |

[Attachment – s.21 – <http://www.un.org/en/documents/index.html> -Document symbol:S/2016/356]

From: Diptel BELGRADE
Sent: 22 April 2016 12:43
To: Diptel FCO
Subject: SERBIA: ELECTIONS: JOY IN REPETITION? [DIPTTEL 1602363]

Diptel BELGRADE (Sensitive)
Foreign & Commonwealth Office Diplomatic Telegram

[OMITTED - not relevant]

Ultra nationalist Serbian Radical Party (SRS) have experienced a popularity boost following the acquittal of their party leader Vojislav Seselj by ICTY

[OMITTED - not relevant]

KEEFE

Authorised

DENIS KEEFE | HMA | [REDACTED –s.40]

Contact

[REDACTED –s.40]

Action

[REDACTED – s.40]