

Proclamation
Velika Kladusa
29 September 1993

Of Fikret Abdic, the President of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia, to the Soldiers, Commanders of the Units of BH Armed Forces and Police, to the Soldiers and Commanders of the Units of the Main HQ of HVO at the Territory of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia

The Initiative on the establishment of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia within the Republic Bosnia and within the Union of the Republics of BH was accepted by the signatures of the majority of adults from the municipalities Bihac, Cazin, Bosanska Krupa and Velika Kladusa.

The main Committee for the Initiative on the establishment of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia made the decision on the establishment of the Constituent parliament.

At the meeting of the Constitutional parliament of the signatories of the Initiative on 27 September 1992 in Velika Kladusa the decision was made on the establishment and the constitutional principles of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia within the Republic of Bosnia and within the Union of the Republics of BH, respecting the people's will, which was expressed by plebiscite.

The Presidency of the Constitutive parliament, the first Government and the president of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia are elected.

By the Resolution that aims are determined in the constitutional principles of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia:

1. to accept the constitution, laws and other regulations, through which the social system will be organized, constitutionally and legality, equality of the people provided and the authorities organized, on the basis of the autonomous decisions, under respecting of human rights and multi-party democracy;
2. to insure peaceful life, to stop the war, to establish peace in the Autonomous Province West Bosnia, in the whole BH, to establish normal relations to Republika Srpska and the Republic Herceg-Bosna, to improve a good cooperation with the Republic Croatia and to enable the resettlement of refugees and expelled people as soon as possible;
3. to establish correct relations to the whole world;
4. to organize the structures in towns, municipalities and local communities on the basis of free people's will;
5. to make conditions for a faster economic development on the basis of the freedom of private enterprises;
6. to open the roads and access to the sea by the establishment of the free zone in Rijeka;
7. to establish tax free zones with convertible currency in the Autonomous Province West Bosnia.

Proceeding from these aims the Constituent parliament accepted

THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES

1. The Autonomous Province West Bosnia is being established on the basis of the rights of the citizens to the autonomy.
2. The social system is democratic, based on political party pluralism, free elections, freedom of private enterprises, power of justice, under total respecting of human rights and equality of nations.

3. The citizens, which are governing directly or through the elected representatives, are on power.
4. The constitutional system proceeds from the division of power between the legislative bodies, executive authorities and independent justice.
5. The Autonomous Province West Bosnia wil decide autonomously on the following responsibilities, until the Republic Bosnia is established:

- national defence and police;
- external affairs and international trade;
- monetary system;
- administration, inspection and other controls;
- taxes;
- communication infrastructure, utility facilities;
- electro-energy system;
- protection of environment;
- economy, privatization of governmental property;
- science, culture, education, health care, social insurance, press;

and it will decide on all state responsibilities, except those under the competence of the Union of Republic of BH, according to the constitutional agreement to the Union. The Autonomous Province West Bosnia can transfer some responsibilities to the Republic Bosnia after its establishment. The Autonomous Province West Bosnia will be a part of the Republic Bosnia on the principles of equal rights of decisions.

6. The legislative body is the Parliament of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia. After accepting of the Constitution the representatives will be elected at free elections, according to the criteria considering the territory and responsibilities. In the round off territorial electoral districts 15 representatives are being elected through direct elections. In the enterprises, cooperatives and industry 20 representatives are being elected, in the organizations in the public sector 5 representatives.

7. The President of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia is being elected by the Constituent parliament, and after accepting of the Constitution he is being elected through direct elections, according to the criteria considering the territory and responsibility. The President of the Autonomous Province represents the Province within the Republic Bosnia and within the Union of Republics of BH and in the international relations, he proposes the mandatory for the Government of the province, the commander of Armed Forces and carries out the politics of the demilitarization.

8. The Executive Committee is the Government of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia, which consists of the president, two vice presidents and ministers.

9. The administration of justice is established at the two tier level and it is independent.

Mr Fikret Abdic was elected unanimously as the president of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia, Mr Ejup Topic as the president of the Constituent Parliament, and Mr Zlatko Jusic as the president of the first Government of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia, at the meeting of the Constituent parliament, according to the Constitutional principles.

The Resolution on the economic principles of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia was made and the way of its realization defined.

The Command of the 5th Corps and some brigade Commanders tried to prevent all these activities. They followed the instructions of the supreme command by interfering the political matters, by influencing the civil authorities, including the Opstina Assemblies in Cazin and Velika Kladusa. They used to take away the lists with signatures of the people and to prevent free expression of will of the people, soldiers and commanders. They organized also military exercises in the field, in order to collect people, as much as possible, and to talk to them about the Initiative, which should be refused and its initiators prevented to act.

Three fourths of the soldiers and commanders of the 5th Corps and all units of the main HQ of HVO from Bihac region, as well as the complete police have signed the initiative.

After the declaration of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia the Command of the 5th Corps ordered the occupation of the radio-stations Bihac, Cazin and "Velkaton" in Velika Kladusa. Following that instruction, the members of the military police occupied the radio-stations in Bihac and Cazin, introduced the censorship of information, and the aim was to introduce the military dictatorship in the whole area.

All this could be carried out because the new civil authorities did not want armed conflicts and unnecessary bloodshed, since they know that the politics of force and the attempt of introducing of the military dictatorship will not be tolerated.

The attitude of legitimate and legal authorities of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia is that the soldiers and the commanders of the 5th Corps, soldiers and the commanders of HVO in Bihac region, policemen and their leaders must have a guaranteed status and sure system of financing, bearing in mind the fact that the Autonomous Province West Bosnia represents the people's will, by respecting that will, the accepted Constitutional principles and the authorities which are elected on the basis of these principles.

The authorities are obliged since the establishment of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia to carry out the instructions of the President of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia and of the Ministry of defence and the internal affairs of the West Bosnia.

The instructions from Sarajevo do not oblige them.

V. Kladusa, 29 September 1993

Fikret Abdic, President of the Autonomous Province West Bosnia