

Vucic "Must Stop Supporting Dodik": Analyst



Serbia's Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic should attend the commemoration in Srebrenica and stop supporting President of Republika Srpska Milorad Dodik, senior associate with the Democratization Policy Council in Berlin Bodo Weber told the Belgrade-based daily Danas

Vucic should go to Srebrenica, at least to deal with the results of the policy that he once represented, and he should also clearly and publicly say that he does not support the policy of the regime of Milorad Dodik, which implies constant threat of secession and constant subversion of the constitutional order of Bosnia-Herzegovina, said the German analyst. According to Weber, this would pave the way for the Serbs in Bosnia to gain political representatives which will enable them to lead a normal, decent life and for the path toward a process of citizens and peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina, with the help of the international community, agreeing on new constitutional and institutional structure of the state, which will meet the needs of all citizens.

An Expected Compromise

According to the daily, he "assessed relations between Serbia and the RS to be like relations between Serbia and northern Kosovo before the outbreak of violence in the summer of 2011 - a long-term unbearable situation without

Belgrade's political will to change something until it explodes on the ground and imposes a change of policy."

Asked how he sees Serbia's behavior in relation to the British draft resolution on Srebrenica, Weber said it was an expected compromise between the old nationalist beliefs of Vucic and Nikolic from the 1990s, and contemporary political orientation towards the EU integration.

Weber believes that the British government already in advance included compromise toward Belgrade and Banja Luka in the draft resolution.

According to him, the text for the most part already represents depoliticization, ie. complete relativization of war crimes and genocide in Srebrenica and of political responsibility, except in one part - in insisting on the notion of genocide as a legal category.

"But what was expected transpired - that Vucic and Nikolic as well as the largest part of society in Serbia and the RS (as well as in the wider region) still understand 'genocide' exclusively as an ideological, not a legal category. Ironically - the ideological perception of 'genocide' was developed in the socialist system of

Yugoslavia," he said.

Asked "whether he believed that Serbia and Russia have not reached agreement on counter-services in connection with the British resolution in the UN," he said that he believes Belgrade did not even seek an agreement seriously, because that would position it against the EU and the U.S.

Kosovo Recognition

Commenting on the visit of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, he said that Merkel will come to Belgrade with a clear message that agreement must be reached for Germany to give the green light for the opening of the first EU membership negotiating chapters.

It's the old, well-known list of obligations, said Weber.

Weber added that the Brussels agreement was only the first agreement on normalization of relations, while the entire package of conditions of Germany relates to full normalization before Serbia joins the EU, "which means recognizing, in some formal form, the reality of Kosovo as a state."