

PART ONE: HIP

SETTING THE HIP SCENE AND FRAMEWORK

‘To be hip is to believe in the possibility of reinvention – to understand oneself as between states, neither one nor the other, without original sin, forever on the road [...] to see, to open one’s eyes.’

John Leland, *Hip: The History*

SARAJEVO, FEBRUARY 1987

The communist officials in charge of Radio Sarajevo 2 have finally succumbed to Boro Kontić’s proposal to allocate some of this station’s dormant airwaves to a new youth-radio concept. Boro, a leading-edge broadcaster on Radio Sarajevo 2, who has a cult Saturday morning show called *Primus*, has been trying to extend the basic premise of his show into something bigger for a couple of years now...

It had been in vain, even though technically there was plenty of airtime available. There was no particular reason why there was a barrier between him and the establishment other than the usual inertia so engrained in a political system that was almost worn out. Radio Sarajevo 2 was the frequency covering the then Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Radio Sarajevo 1 was the only other Bosnian ‘republic’ broadcaster. The rest were local radio stations (for the city of Sarajevo it was a network called Sarajevo 202). The most important, as far as the communists were concerned, was Radio Sarajevo 1, as it catered for what they considered to be a diversity of subjects and thus there was no need for more. In communist parlance, ‘diversity’ actually implied conformity. Each of the six former Yugoslav republics had a similar set-up of two national and a series...