

Canadian battalion ready for Yugoslav

By Tim Harper
TORONTO STAR

OTTAWA — Canadian peacekeepers are ready and awaiting a United Nations go-ahead for a Yugoslav mission that is being described as one of the most dangerous ever undertaken.

Canada has offered a battalion, in the range of 700 to 1,000 peacekeepers, to help maintain a ceasefire in the Yugoslav civil war.

But Ottawa must await a decision from the U.N. Security Council to go ahead with the deployment and then provide the per-

sonnel based on U.N. needs. The operation is expected to involve about 10,000 peacekeepers.

No one was minimizing the potential danger for the Canadians, who are likely to be deployed from the Canadian Forces base in Laib, Germany.

"There is an increased risk in this peacekeeping operation," said Alex Morrison, a former official in the Canadian U.N. mission and director of the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies.

"It's very volatile and Canadians should not be surprised if the peacekeepers have to do some fighting."

Graham Green, an official with the Canadian mission in New York, said safety is a factor in establishing this peacekeeping effort.

"But let's face it, over the years more than 800 peacekeepers have been killed in action," he said. "By their very nature, they're dangerous operations."

A helicopter carrying observers from the European Community was shot down by Yugoslav forces Tuesday. Although Green said that will not halt U.N. efforts, it has caused everyone to realize that everything must be in place and the cease-fire in effect since Jan. 3 must be holding well.

mission

before the peacekeepers arrive.

Some observers have urged the Security Council to get the operation up and running by next Wednesday, the date on which European Community recognition of Croatia and Slovenia becomes official.

The urgency is based on the fear that the recognition could lead to further unrest or a major Serbian offensive in protest. Some U.N. officials also believe it could lead to additional international recognition, which would only increase the chances for renewed fighting in the civil war.

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Jan 11/92

TORONTO STAR May 25/92

Canada kicks out Yugoslav diplomats

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vate meeting with Mulroney, Boutros-Ghali said any further U.N. commitment would require a Security Council mandate.

At present, U.N. troops are maintaining a fragile peace between Serbia and Croatia.

If they are asked to do more, U.N. peacekeepers will "accept the risk," he said.

Canada's ambassador in Belgrade, James Bissett is being recalled for "consultations" — diplomatic jargon for a protest move.

The envoys who must leave are stationed at the consulate in Toronto. Yugoslavia's consulate in Vancouver, which closed recently, won't be allowed to reopen, Mulroney said.

Boutros-Ghali and Mulroney discussed a range of other items during a 90-minute session.

Both gave their strongest hints yet that an end to international peacekeeping in Cyprus — including a 28-year Canadian commitment — could be in sight.

"Twenty-eight years is a long

time," Mulroney said, "and there are other places around the world where the secretary-general could deploy these resources very effectively.

"We don't want this to become a security blanket for people who absolutely refuse to get along."

When a reporter asked whether the warring sides have become "addicted" to the presence of peacekeepers, Boutros-Ghali replied: "The U.N. is against addiction."

Mulroney also raised a longstanding irritant of his — the number of countries delinquent in paying their U.N. dues.

"We're very concerned that some nations tend to view their contributions to the U.N. as optional," he said.

"They would have the secretary-general go around with a tin cup to collect donations when they should be paying their bills in full and on time."

Only 14 countries, including Canada, pay their bills on time, he said.

U.S.

LISBON (Reuter) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has called for U.N. sanctions against Serbia to end bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said other methods should be used first.

The difference in approach makes it unlikely the United Nations Security Council will act swiftly on the crisis.

Speaking at the end of a 63-nation conference on aid to former Soviet republics, Baker bluntly told other countries to stop looking for reasons not to act.

There are 35,000 diabetics now who have no insulin. There are 6,000 women and babies who have no medicine, baby formula or milk. There are reports in the last 48 hours of hunger-related deaths," he told a news conference yesterday.

"Anyone who is looking for a reason not to act, or arguing somehow that action in the face of this kind of nightmare is not warranted at this time . . . is on the wrong wavelength," he added.

But after later talks with Baker, Kozyrev made clear that Russia was reluctant to move to mandatory U.N. sanctions. He said he was travelling to the region to intervene personally to try to get a ceasefire that would allow more U.N. peacekeeping troops to be assigned.

TORONTO STAR March 15/92



RICHARD LAUTENS/TORONTO STAR

PRINCELY VISIT TO METRO

Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia is interviewed yesterday after speaking at the Boulevard Club. With him is his cousin, Princess Elizabeth. They are in Toronto to help mark the 10th anniversary of the Serbian Heritage Academy of Canada.

Royal in waiting warns Canada

TORONTO SUN
March 15/92

By SAM PAZZANO
Toronto Sun

The heir to the fallen throne of war-torn Yugoslavia yesterday offered advice to Canadians scrambling to preserve their nation: "Please keep calm."

Prince Alexander Karadjordjevic told reporters in Toronto that Canadians need to "use democratic means to solve ... problems."

"It hurts to see all the bloodshed in your homeland. Ethnic groups and nationalities must be respected (in Yugoslavia), just as in Canada."

Join ECC

London-born prince Alexander, a former Chicago-based insurance company consultant, appealed to all Yugoslavians to follow the example of other communist bloc nations to the path of market economies and Western democracy.

He urged the states to join the emerging European Economic Community and share in its prosperity and blossoming technology.

"I want to see Serbians

and all other countries not fall behind. We have been held back for a half century (of communism)," said Alexander, whose monarchy was "illegally abolished in 1947."

Peacekeeping

In the next two weeks, the United Nations is sending a peacekeeping unit, including 1,200 Canadian soldiers from Lahr, Germany, to enforce a fragile peace in Yugoslavia.

Alexander called for a referendum after a three-to-six week "cooling off" period so that the Balkan state citizens "can decide their fate without being intimidated by an authority."

"The sooner the referendum the better. We have lost a lot of time and we have much to learn about building a democracy," said Alexander.

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TORONTO SUN Mon 14/92



Princely gift for royal visit

WARM WELCOME ... Yugoslav Crown Prince Alexander II, left, and his wife, Princess Katarina, accept traditional bread and salt from Maja Lukovic, 20, of Toronto, on arrival at Pearson Airport yesterday. They are attending Serbian Heritage Academy of Canada festivities.

- Fred Thornhill, Sun

Dialogue is only way to stop war, prince says

By Donovan Vincent
TORONTO STAR

Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia wants peace and democracy in his country and says an end to fighting must be achieved through dialogue.

"My mission is really to get people together without conflict. The only way to solve our problems is through negotiations," he told reporters on his arrival in Toronto yesterday.

Thousands have been killed over the past eight months during battles for independence in the republics of Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Even when you have war you always end up at the conference table. Democratic values must be put up front," he said.

"There's no reason to solve problems by killing each other. We are not in the Middle Ages anymore."

Alexander and his wife, Princess Katharina, are here as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Serbian Heritage Academy of Canada.

He and his wife said they also came to plead for medicine and food supplies for Serbians.

They were greeted at Pearson International Airport by young members of Toronto's Serbian community, dressed in traditional outfits.

TORONTO
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TORONTO STAR Feb 15/92

Canadian peacekeepers 'ready to go' to Yugoslavia

By Jonathan Ferguson
TORONTO STAR

OTTAWA — Canadian peacekeepers and their armored vehicles are "all painted up and ready to go" on a Yugoslav mission within days, Government House Leader Harvie Andre says.

"It's looking very much like it'll be next week," Andre said yesterday.

Canada has offered a battalion, about 900 peacekeepers, to help maintain a ceasefire in the Yugoslav civil war.

But Ottawa must wait for a final decision from the U.N. Security Council, expected Monday, to proceed with the deployment.

External Affairs official Scott Mullin said Ottawa is prepared to send more troops if the U.N. decides it needs more Canadian personnel for the \$400 million-a-year peacekeeping mission.

"We're prepared to go beyond our initial commitment and respond to any U.N. request to participate further," he said.

The operation, the second-largest in U.N. history, is expected to involve about 13,000 peacekeepers from many countries.

The Canadians are to be deployed from the Canadian Forces base in Lahr, Germany. Government sources said both Canadian mechanized infantry battalions in Lahr are now on alert.

The only decision left is whether it's the Royal 22nd Regiment — the legendary Van Doos — or the Royal Canadian Regiment who move out in Hercules C-130 transport planes.

The sources said the "relatively heavily armed" troops and their armored personnel carriers — ar-



HARVIE ANDRE: Battalion likely to leave next week, Tory house leader says.

he expects the five permanent security council members to give the mission the go-ahead on Monday.

"The only surprise is that they haven't gone in before this," he said. "The current ceasefire needs this kind of support from the U.N. if it's going to stick."

The permanent U.N. security council members include: Britain, France, the United States, China and Russia.

In all, 31 countries have been asked to contribute troops, officers, police, administrative, medical and other personnel for peacekeeping duty, Reuters News Agency reports.

Here is a tentative, unofficial breakdown, taken from U.S.

Stoba + Mail
Feb 15/92

Fighting flares

BELGRADE — Four people have been killed and 10 wounded in the past two days in fighting in Croatia as United Nations officials moved ahead with plans to send about 13,000 peacekeepers to the breakaway Yugoslav republic. Canadian officials said yesterday up to 1,000 Canadian military personnel could participate in the peacekeeping force.

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TORONTO STAR
Feb. 14/92

Canada invited to send troops to Yugoslavia

By Olivia Ward
TORONTO STAR

UNITED NATIONS — As Yugoslavia's uncertain truce continues to crack, the United Nations is preparing to send up to 13,000 peacekeepers to the divided country, including Canadian troops and experts.

Peacekeeping chief Murrack Goulding invited members of the Canadian mission to a meeting of proposed troop contributors yesterday to decide on the composition of the force, for which Ottawa is expected to provide a battalion of infantry and technical support.

"We have received a request for help," said military adviser Col. Douglas Fraser, adding that Ottawa would announce the details of the contribution.

"We have indicated we are ready to do our part," external affairs spokesperson Scott Mullin told The Star yesterday in Ottawa. "It's up to the secretary-general to decide on the composition of the force."

The Security Council has not yet given a formal green light to the \$400 million-a-year peacekeeping operation, the second-largest in U.N. history. But special envoy Cyrus Vance convinced Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali late Tuesday that stalling its deployment any longer would threaten the month-old ceasefire brokered by the U.N.

Yesterday the U.N. chief met with the five permanent council members, Britain, France, the United States, China and Russia. And he appeared to have overcome American objections that

the situation was not safe enough for U.N. troops to enter Yugoslavia.

"We do have reservations," said a U.S. official. "Our position has always been that it's wise if we're sure the ceasefire is holding. If Vance believes that is the case, he must have good reason."

Russian Ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov was more enthusiastic about rapid deployment. Speaking to reporters yesterday, he stressed that "the window of opportunity is very small. We have to get through it while the ceasefire still holds."

France has been spearheading the effort to deploy troops as quickly as possible, including a possible partial placement of peacekeepers in areas outside a Serbian-held enclave in Croatia. And in Europe, German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has cracked down on Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, who reneged on his agreement to accept the U.N. peace plan earlier this week.

Boutros-Ghali has been reluctant to go along with the fast deployment plan, and his spokesperson, Francois Giuliani, said that he was "not going into this with his eyes closed to the difficulties that exist."

The new U.N. chief is also concerned about the cost and duration of the operation which would take up more than half the cash-strapped organization's \$700 million budget.

Meanwhile, reports from Yugoslavia say that Serbian rebel leader Milan Babic, self-proclaimed leader of the Krajina enclave in Croatia, has predicted bloodshed if U.N. troops enter the country.

Globe & Mail
Feb 13/92

Recognition forthcoming

MOSCOW — Russia soon will announce diplomatic recognition of the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia, the independent news agency Interfax said yesterday. Russia has been among the closest allies of Yugoslavia's federal government, whose troops have fought in Croatia in a bid to stop its secession.

AP

Globe & Mail Feb 14

Peacekeepers backed

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali yesterday recommended the quick deployment of up to 13,000 peacekeepers to keep Yugoslavia's war from reigniting and spreading. The Security Council plans to meet early next week to approve the recommendation, and advance elements of the force will probably arrive about two weeks later, a UN spokesman said. Cyrus Vance, the UN special envoy for Yugoslavia, had recommended to Mr. Boutros-Ghali yesterday the rapid deployment of a larger-than-expected force.

Reuter

UN force to Balkans

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is recommending the dispatch of a UN peacekeeping force of more than 10,000 men to Yugoslavia, a UN spokesman announced yesterday. The Security Council is expected to meet next week to approve the recommendation and advance elements of the force will probably arrive about two weeks later, the spokesman

Toronto Star Aug 24/92

Yugoslavia a warning on limits

By Jonathan Power

LONDON — Yugoslavia should make us fear not the Molotov variety of cocktail but Stalin's.

It was Stalin who, more than any other Soviet leader, engineered the compressing of such a wide mix of ethnic, religious and social groups into one society.

Tito, who later broke with Stalin, merely emulated him on this point. Now we watch Tito's creation undo and we have seen already in the ex-Soviet Union and Stalin's legacy in Georgia, Moldavia and Azerbaijan go the same way, with the threat, even inside the Russian Republic, of worse to come.

But as the Stalin cocktail implodes there seems to be another process afoot in the Western world that has profound implications for disintegrating western Europe.

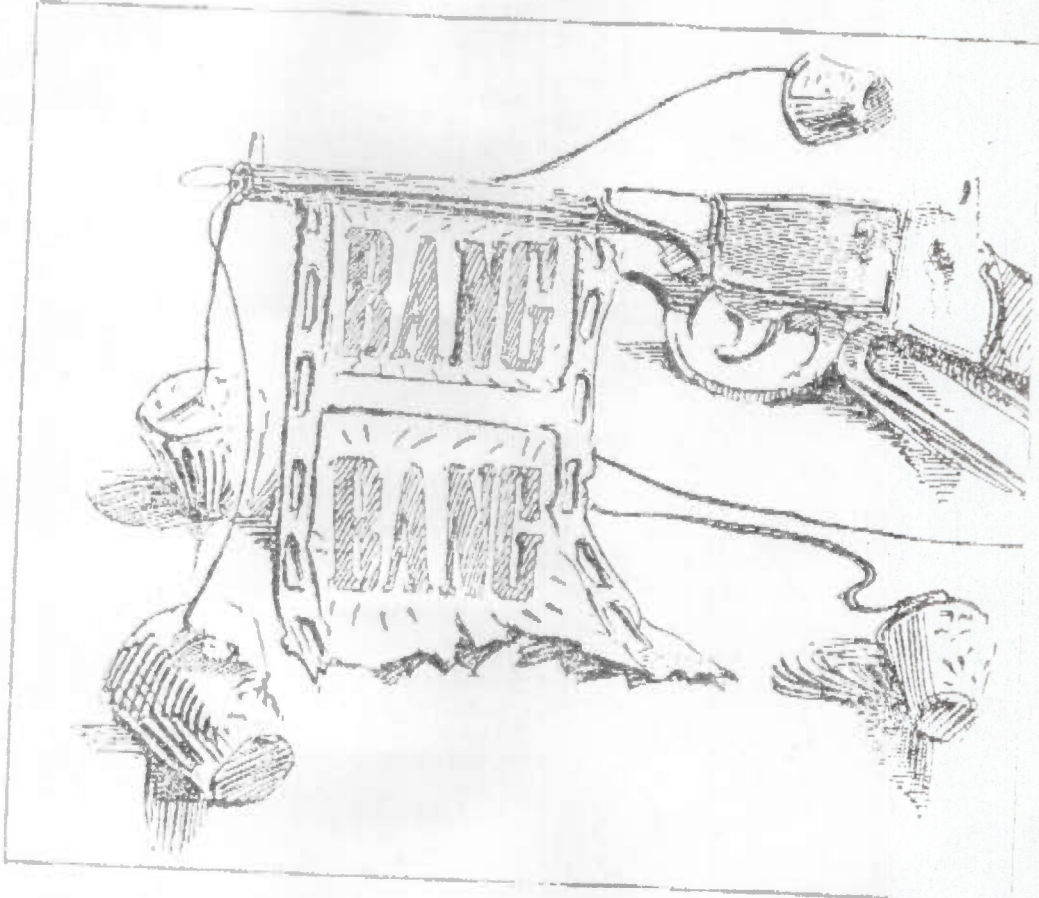
Some would call it isolationism. It is not.

In today's world, even the moderately educated can see, all too clearly, we are all woven together like a Persian carpet by economics, institutions and live television.

One way it shows is that we are never indifferent for long to immense suffering in other parts of the world. "Compassion fatigue" was a misnomer if ever there was one. The compassion today for Bosnia and Somalia is as fresh and uncynical as if the word had only just been minted.

No, what is at play is not isolationism but a growing consciousness, that all problems of strife and mayhem cannot always be sorted out by the application of force. The days of the cavalry riding over the hill died somewhere between Vietnam and Afghanistan.

It would be putting it too strong to say there is a revulsion against the use of force. But there is an important body of opinion, not least inside the military establishments themselves, which has come to question its utility in all but the most clear-cut and threatening of situations.



Nothing illustrates this more clearly than the unprecedented equivocation that preceded the decision to go into the Persian Gulf after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

If the invasion had happened 10 or 20 years ago, we could not have imagined a) the present chief of the American armed forces confiding his private doubts about the use of force, b) his immediate predecessor in the job publicly telling Congress that it would be more sensible to rely on economic sanctions, c) the U.S. Senate only approving going to war by the slimmest of margins.

Hence the subtle manoeuvring of Western leaders now in play in the face of their outraged public opinion de-

manding they "do something" about the killings in Bosnia.

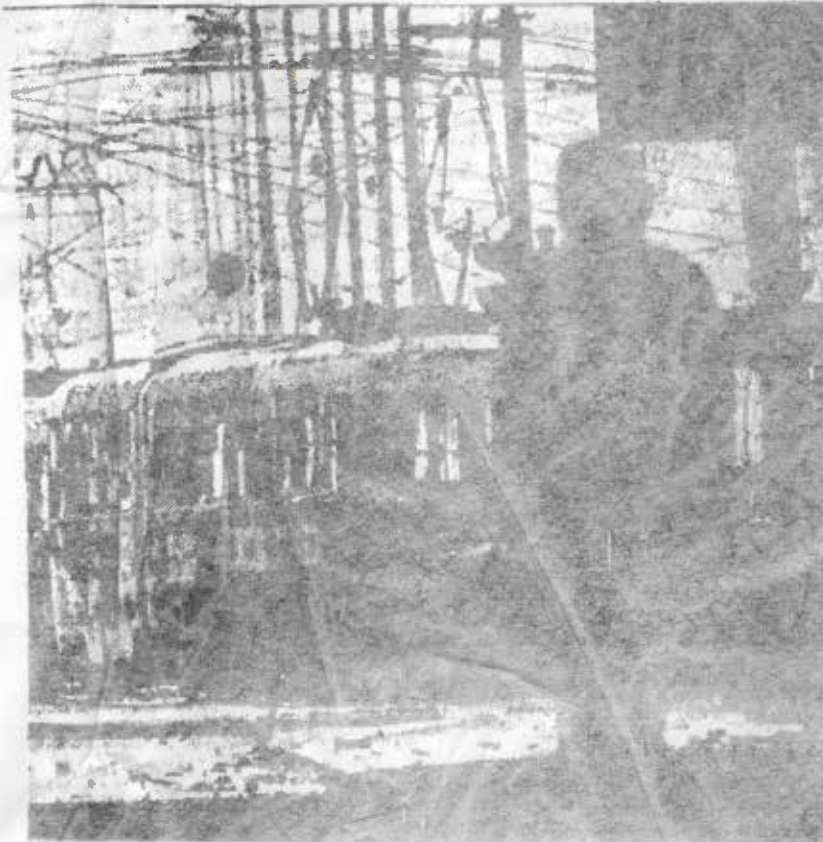
All through this Yugoslav crisis there has been one firm hand on the brake. It is the British Foreign Office that has constantly told its European partners that Britain's painful experience in Northern Ireland has taught it the difficulties of taking on a guerrilla army and the impossibility of fighting "village by village, valley by valley."

Now that aroused American public opinion has pushed the U.S. to get involved there is a second, very firm, hand on the brake — Gen. Colin Powell. He has made it clear to his political bosses that any intervention to quell the Serbs

TORONTO STAR Aug 29/92
Cont

ED BALKANS

control Yugoslavia



cars and burned vehicles yesterday after the Bosnian capital came under mortar and artillery fire.

an extraordinary press conference here yesterday.

Alone on the platform facing a barrage of questions from unconvinced journalists, Panic sought to assert his independence of Milosevic and anyone else who would oppose his determination to bring peace to Yugoslavia.

"Everyone who gets in the way of peace . . . will have to fight with me whoever he is," he said. "If anyone from my government does anything inconsistent with the principles for peace I'll fire them. If Milosevic or anyone else fails to live up to the mandate for peace, I'll lead the fight against them."

The rabid nationalism that has turned former Yugoslavia into a killing ground should be consigned to history, he said: "Nationalism has no place in Yugoslavia, except in the soccer stadium."

The prime minister's voice rose to a shout as he defended himself against suggestions of an "open power struggle" with Milosevic.

"You can only have a power struggle between equals," he said amid laughter. "There is no struggle between us."

Panic has repeatedly said that as prime minister of the rump federation of Yugoslavia his position is senior to that of Milosevic,

president only of Serbia.

Panic said his government will work for the early recognition of, and restored trade links with, all the independent former Yugoslav republics.

Asked specifically whether that includes Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said yes, but only after new elections are held there to choose a "government of all the people" (instead of the leadership that brought this place to war).

Blaming Bosnia's Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic for the war may have been Panic's way of playing to his audience at home where, he boasted, "I am number one in popularity."

But his formula for Koscov's heartland of old Serbia and the empire's defeat by the Turks, will win him few votes. It was in Kosovo in 1986 that Milosevic rose from obscurity promising Serbs they would "never be beaten again."

Now Panic promises to restore autonomy to Kosovo and to open the university in Pristina which, like other ethnic Albanian institutions, was shut down by Milosevic.

Panic said he and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in London had discussed re-opening the Belgrade-Zagreb highway and calling it the "Road to Peace."

"We are working on recognition of Croatia and it looks good," he said. The problem of the 600,000 ethnic Serbs in Croatia could be solved if "they (Croatians) will bend as much as they can to give the Serbs in Krajina (region) at least civil rights and if we have the right to defend them if they are imposed on."

In former Yugoslavia, the broken promises is shorter than the list of the war dead.

TORONTO STAR May 14/92

Ottawa backs U.N. retreat from Sarajevo

By Tim Harper
TORONTO STAR

OTTAWA — External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall says she supports the United Nations move out of Sarajevo and is concerned for the safety of Canadians there.

She said yesterday she would be consulting with U.N. officials about the future of the 1,100 Canadian peacekeepers in Croatia.

"If our peacekeepers are not permitted to stay there (because of the fighting) and the deterioration and destruction is just beyond contemplation," she said. "It's just awful."

She reaffirmed her determination to leave Canadian Ambassador James Bissett in Belgrade, citing longstanding foreign policy and the signal it gives to the warring parties.

"We need an open door, we need to talk to all the parties," she said. "It's not as simple as saying the Serbs have been the aggressors here. There are a number of things going on."

"I don't think withdrawing our ambassador or not withdrawing our ambassador is going to make any difference to the attitudes of the Serbs and the Croats and the Muslims or anyone else who may be involved."

In Sarajevo, Brig.-Gen. Lewis MacKenzie, the headquarters' chief of staff, said 200 of 300 soldiers based there should complete their move to Belgrade by the middle of next week.

"We are not giving up (on Sarajevo)," MacKenzie told Canadian Press at his headquarters office.

"The intention is to leave that cell (100 staff) here so that, if the situation stabilizes, we can come back in with the full headquarters."

Serbian refugees poured out of villages in northern Bosnia in their thousands yesterday after Muslim and Croatian forces captured the area from the Yugoslav army.

The Serbian media said that more than 10,000 people had left their homes in the commune of Bosanski Brod in a convoy more than 11 kilometres (7 miles) long.

The flight of Serbs from Bosanski Brod was one of the largest forced movements of civilians since Yugoslavia collapsed into civil war in July. The commune, on the Croatian border, had a population of 34,000 before, of whom 41 per cent were Croats, 34 per cent Serbs, 12 per cent Muslims and 13 per cent mixed nationality.

The Serbian news agency Tanjug said local Serbs had abandoned their homes after the Yugoslav army pulled out of the area and attacks were launched from Croatian territory. It quoted a refugee from one village as saying: "There is shooting from all sides. Most houses are on fire, and there is no one to help."

The refugees were heading south for Serbian-held areas of Bosnia, but progress was impeded by fierce clashes between the towns of Derventa and Doboj.

Genscher won world's respect as architect of foreign policy

BERLIN — Germany's veteran foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, announced today that he will step down May 17 after exactly 18 years in the post.

According to a statement issued by the foreign ministry in Bonn, Genscher said that while his decision to resign had not been easy, he had made up his mind some time ago.

He was the world's longest-serving foreign minister.

Over his long career, Genscher had earned international respect as a masterful politician in the difficult years of the Cold War, but most recently he had become a controversial figure as Germany embarked on a new aggressive foreign policy.

Almost alone in Europe, Genscher fought for the early recognition of Croatia and Slovenia as they sought to break away from the crumbling Yugoslav federation.

While the other 11 member countries of the European Community held back, arguing for a more cautious approach, Genscher unilaterally announced Germany's intention to grant recognition to the two

republics by the end of last year.

Reluctantly, and under intense pressure from Bonn, the EC finally went along, but not without stirring up some bitter criticism, particularly in Britain.

Genscher's gamble appeared to have paid off in Croatia, where recognition led to a ceasefire in the war with Serbian rebels and the deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force.

But, again under German pressure, the EC later extended recognition to a third former Yugoslav state, Bosnia-Herzegovina, where some 300 people have since died in bloody ethnic fighting.

Last week, after Genscher demanded that the EC impose sanctions on Serbia for its intervention in Bosnia, a biting commentary in the London Times said the foreign minister was "thrashing around in a mess which he himself had helped to create."

Health Minister Gerda Hasselfeldt also plans to quit the German government, officials in Kohl's coalition told Reuters.

— Alan Ferguson

Canada, U.S. snub 'new' Yugoslavia

By Kitty McKinsey
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

BELGRADE — The only two republics left in a Yugoslavia destroyed by ethnic wars proclaimed a new state yesterday, but it will face major obstacles in gaining international recognition.

Serbia and Montenegro adopted a new constitution for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the third state of the South Slavs since 1918.

In a ceremony outside the federal parliament, Yugoslavia's blue, red and white flag was lowered for the last time and a similar new flag was raised, with the Communist red star missing from the centre.

The ceremony was boycotted by Canada, the United States and 11 of the 12 European Community member states.

They have accused Serbia of attacking neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia in a land grab, which Serbia denies.

Serb militias backed by the Serb-dominated Yugoslav National Army last week battled Muslim and Croat militias in Bosnia.

Serbia is facing possible ac-



tion by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) tomorrow if it does not halt military action against Bosnia and recognize its independence.

By making the new Yugoslavia's borders those of Serbia and Montenegro, Serbia has implicitly recognized the sovereignty of the four former Yugoslav republics, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia.

The first three states have won international recognition, but Macedonia's recognition has been blocked by Greece.

SOUTHAM NEWS

TORONTO STAR Feb 28/92

Canadians await word from U.N.

By Alan Ferguson
TORONTO STAR

LAHR, Germany — You can't blame them if they're a little blasé about it all.

The 4th Combat Engineer Regiment was on standby for a tricky mine-clearing job in Cyprus for nearly three months at the end of last year.

In the end, Operation Spiral was abandoned when Greek and Turkish Cypriots failed to agree on the fine print of the operation.

Now the engineers are on call for an even more difficult assignment in Yugoslavia, this time called Operation Harmony.

Their role, if and when they go, is to "clean up the living room a bit" — in the words of base commander Brig.-Gen. Clive Addy.

That's putting it mildly — the engineers are the guys assigned to, among other things, find and disarm hidden mines.

And, as Addy said this week, in Yugoslavia "there are mines, lots of mines."

In one of the grand contradictions that seem to be an inevitable part of army life, most of the regiment was packing to go home when word came down to get ready to ship

Job of clearing mines 'nothing new' for team of combat engineers

out to Yugoslavia.

As part of the military cuts announced last year, the 250-person unit was to be slashed this summer to only 80. Most of the unit's vehicles had already been stripped down and mothballed, ready to be sent back to Canada.

But Canada's participation in the United Nations peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia has given the engineers a reprieve and they spent the whole week re-equipping their vehicles and painting them U.N. white.

Ironically, although Tuesday's federal budget called for their base in Lahr to be closed one year earlier than previously announced, most of the engineers will have an extended stay in Europe if the peacekeeping operation goes ahead as planned.

Captain Ed Izatt of Winnipeg, a spokesperson for the unit, told The Star there was some disappointment when the Cyprus as-

signment fell through, although the special training involved — including work on live mines — would be useful in Yugoslavia.

The engineers are scheduled to go to one of three U.N. "protected areas" in Croatian territory.

They are due to accompany a battalion of infantry made up of the Royal 22nd Regiment and the Royal Canadian Regiment, also based in southwestern Germany.

Taking a reporter on a tour of the engineers' headquarters at the Lahr base, Sgt. Michael Foster, 29, of Sudbury said he was looking forward to going to Yugoslavia — "it's a worthwhile mission."

In the back of a newly white-painted armored personnel carrier, Capt. Andrew Godin, 29, of Barrie, sat reading off a checklist of equipment.

"As soon as the orders to move come in, we'll be ready," he said. "I've done U.N. peacekeeping before. It's nothing new."

The engineers are planning to take 180 vehicles with them to Yugoslavia — everything from the kitchen sink to huge tracked excavators and dump trucks.