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## Bosnia declares independence from Yugoslavia

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Serbs in ethnically-mixed Bosnia-Herzegovina proclaimed their own republic yesterday, threatening to exacerbate tensions in the crumbling Yugoslav federation.

A day earlier, Bosnia became the fourth of six republics to declare that it will pursue independence. Analysts fear that war could spread to that area from Croatia, where Croats and a Serb minority backed by the army are fighting.

In response to Bosnia's declaration and that of Macedonia on Thursday, the U.S. State Department warned Serbia yesterday not to use the issue of independence to threaten either republic. Both republics have sizable Serb minorities.

The Serbian-dominated remnant of the federal Parliament, however, yesterday denounced a European Community decision to recognize Croatia and other independence-minded Yugoslav republics, saying it "fans continued armed clashes."

In other developments:

□ The Tanjug news agency reported a cease-fire applying to all of Croatia's western Slavonia region north of Bosnia had been agreed on,

### A Serbian volunteer carries Croatian helmets found in Vukovar.

effective at 8 a.m. (2 a.m. EST) today. Senior negotiators from the army and Croatia's military met in Osijek to discuss a truce for the region.

□ Croatian battlefronts were mostly calm, although one person was reported killed at Slovenska Pozega, east of Zagreb, and two people were killed at Vrsar, near Pula, during air attacks on Adriatic towns. Osijek, a key eastern Croatian stronghold, was shelled early yesterday.

□ At Bosanski Samac, a Bosnian town near the border with Croatia, the army released around 600 prisoners captured in Vukovar after its fall Nov. 18.

□ Croatia prepared to issue its own currency, said Damir Mudrinjak, head of the Croatian treasury. He said exchange of the Yugoslav dinar for the Croatian dinar on a one-to-one basis would begin tomorrow.

More than a dozen general truces in the 6-month-old war pitting Croatian troops against Serbian irregulars and the federal army have failed. The latest was negotiated by the United Nations.

In Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the republic's sizable ethnic Serb minority declared that the Serb enclaves were uniting to become the Republic of Serbian Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ethnic Serbs in Croatia proclaimed a similar Serb republic on Thursday.

The Serb community in Bosnia controls more than half of the state's territory, and its move was certain to be strongly opposed by local Muslims and Croats.

A day earlier, Bosnia announced it would seek recognition from foreign countries, as have Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia. Bosnia's decision was angrily criticized by its ethnic Serbs.

The 12-nation European Community in Western Europe said Tuesday it would recognize on Jan. 15 any Yugoslav republic seeking independence that could guarantee minority rights. Serbia and its tiny ally Montenegro are the only republics trying to