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SUBJECT: EUROPEAN BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 01 OCTOBER 1988.

YUGOSLAVIA: JOCKEYING OVER SERBIAN DEMANDS

YUGOSLAV FEDERAL LEADERS AND REGIONAL LEADERS OUTSIDE SERBIA ARE TAKING TENTATIVE STEPS TO SLOW THE NATIONALIST DRIVE OF SERBIAN PARTY CHIEF SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC. FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN THE MOSTLY ALBANIAN LEADERSHIP OF KOSOVO PROVINCE MODEST NEW PUBLIC SUPPORT; MILOSEVIC ALLEGES THE PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP IS FAILING TO PROTECT THE ETHNIC SERB MINORITY FROM ALBANIAN HARASSMENT. THIS WEEK THE LIBERAL SLOVENIAN REPUBLIC LEADERSHIP SHARPLY ATTACKED SERBIAN AGITATION. MILOSEVIC, MEANWHILE, HAS CONTINUED TO SUPPORT SERB DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH HAVE GROWN TO AT LEAST 100,000 PEOPLE, THE LARGEST IN YUGOSLAVIA SINCE WORLD WAR II. [REDACTED] SERB NATIONALISTS ARE BECOMING MORE STRIDENT AND ETHNIC ALBANIANS

~~SECRET~~

MORE FEARFUL AND RESENTFUL. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NEITHER PRO- NOR ANTI-MILOSEVIC FORCES HAVE A DECISIVE EDGE, AND MORE JOCKEYING IS LIKELY BEFORE A PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM ON STABILITY SET FOR 17 OCTOBER. IF THE RESISTANCE TO MILOSEVIC COALESCES QUICKLY, HE WOULD PROBABLY AGREE TO A FACE-SAVING COMPROMISE THAT GAVE SERBIA SLIGHTLY GREATER AUTHORITY OVER THE PROVINCES OF KOSOVO AND VOJVODINA AND REMOVED A FEW ANTI-MILOSEVIC LEADERS. EITHER A MILOSEVIC VICTORY OR FURTHER STALEMATE WOULD SERIOUSLY THREATEN STABILITY. [REDACTED]