

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 26 JULY 1990

[REDACTED] YUGOSLAVIA: CROATIA'S SERBS DECLARE SOVEREIGNTY [REDACTED]

LEADERS OF CROATIA'S 600,000 SERBS ASSERTED AT A MASS RALLY YESTERDAY THAT SERBS HAVE THE RIGHT TO SECEDE FROM THE REPUBLIC AND X''INTEGRATE'' WITH OTHER YUGOSLAV ''NATIONS.'' CROATIAN PRESIDENT TUDJMAN IN A SPEECH TO THE REPUBLIC LEGISLATURE DENOUNCED THE MOVE AS AN ATTEMPT TO DESTABILIZE CROATIA AND PROVOKE ARMED INTERVENTION. HE INDIRECTLY ACCUSED THE HARDLINE COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP IN SERBIA OF MANIPULATING THE SERB MINORITY IN CROATIA IN ORDER TO TOPPLE HIS GOVERNMENT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE SOVEREIGNTY DECLARATION WILL AGGRAVATE ETHNIC TENSIONS IN CROATIA AND INCREASE THE PROSPECT OF CIVIL CONFLICT, ESPECIALLY IF THE NATIONALISTIC TUDJMAN CARRIES OUT HIS THREAT TO PURGE SERBS FROM THE BUREAUCRACY. TUDJMAN'S ALLEGATION OF SERBIAN SUBVERSION IN CROATIA WILL COMPLICATE EFFORTS TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE ON THE FUTURE STRUCTURE OF YUGOSLAVIA. [REDACTED]