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EUROPEAN BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR FRIDAY, 03 MAY

[REDACTED] YUGOSLAVIA: CASUALTIES RISE IN ETHNIC FIGHTING [REDACTED]

PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT AT LEAST 10 PEOPLE WERE KILLED YESTERDAY IN FIGHTING BETWEEN CROATIAN POLICE AND ETHNIC SERBS IN CROATIA. A HELICOPTER CARRYING SENIOR CROATIAN OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING THE FIGHTING WAS FORCED DOWN BY HEAVY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE IN THE KRAJINA REGION OF CROATIA. THE YUGOSLAV ARMY, IN AN EFFORT TO BRING ORDER, HAS INTERPOSED ITSELF BETWEEN CROATIAN POLICE AND SERBS IN AREAS OF FIGHTING. FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT PUBLICLY COMMENTED ON THE CONFLICT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE FIGHTING WAS PROBABLY THE HEAVIEST IN THE CRISIS. THIS AND THE CLOSE ESCAPE OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS WILL INCREASE PRESSURE ON CROATIAN PRESIDENT TUDJMAN TO SUPPRESS THE SERB REBELS. THE PROXIMITY OF CROATIAN FORCES, SERB MILITIA, AND THE YUGOSLAV ARMY HEIGHTENS THE RISK OF MORE CROAT-SERB FIGHTING OR A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CROATIAN FORCES AND THE ARMY. [REDACTED]