SUBJECT: EUROPEAN BRIEF

FOR OB OCTOBER 1988.

YUGOSLAVIA: MILOSEVIC TARGETS MONTENEGRIN LEADERSHIP

YESTERDAY, LEADERS OF THE MONTENEGRIN REPUBLIC CALLED AN EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE REGION'S PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS DEMANDS BY SOME 10,000 PRO-SERB DEMONSTRATORS THAT IT RESIGN. THE PROTESTERS SAID ONLY A FEW OF THE LEADERS--SUPPORTERS OF SERBIAN PARTY BOSS MILOSEVIC-SHOULD REMAIN IN OFFICE. THE DEMONSTRATION CAME ONLY A DAY AFTER MILOSEVIC ENGINEERED A PUTSCH OF THE LEADERSHIP OF SERBIA'S VOJVODINA PROVINCE. AN EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE NATIONAL PARTY PRESIDIUM ON THURSDAY SIDED WITH MILOSEVIC ON SACKING THE VOJVODINA LEADERSHIP.

THE MOVE AGAINST THE MONTENEGRIN LEADERS IS MILOSEVIC'S FIRST SERIOUS FORAY OUTSIDE THE SERBIAN REPUBLIC AND IS ANOTHER CRITICAL TEST OF HIS STRENGTH. SOME OR ALL ANTI-MILOSEVIC MONTENEGRIN LEADERS ARE LIKELY TO CAVE IN TO PRO-SERB PRESSURE AND RESIGN. IF THEY DO, MILOSEVIC WILL PROBABLY TURN HIS ATTENTION TO MACEDONIAN AND BOSNIAN LEADERS BEFORE THE NATIONAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 17 OCTOBER. NEW PRO-SERB LEADERSHIPS IN THESE REPUBLICS WOULD RODUCE A SERBIAN-LED NATIONAL REGIME DOMINATED BY MILOSEVIC.