Slovenia
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SLOVENIA and the Yugoslav federal army were last night locked in a war of nerves after the rebel republic rejected an ultimatum to cede control of its external borders to the federal authorities by Sunday.

The ultimatum, and its rejection, added to fears in the Slovene capital Ljubljana that the federal army would carry out its threat and mount a full-scale attack on the republic. The Slovene authorities set up steel barricades across a number of main roads to protect the capital against a tank assault.

While tension remained high, the ceasefire between Slovene forces and the federal army continued to hold yesterday and it appeared that all federal army units had returned to barracks in Slovenia by last night.

Western diplomats said the collective presidency's tough ultimatum against Slovenia showed that the hardline pro-army republics had given the army a "constitutional" right to take any action against the rebel republic.

The central presidency is dominated by a pro-army faction led by the republic of Serbia, which is supported by the republic of Montenegro, and the two provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina.

The eight-point ultimatum included a demand that all Slovene forces be returned to barracks and all barricades in the...

Denial in Belgrade: Ante Markovic, federal prime minister, at his news conference in the Yugoslav capital, where he said that the central government had not ordered last week's army action against the rebel republic of Slovenia.