

# CSCE agrees to send goodwill mission

THE GUARDIAN 5/7/91

Susan Greenberg in Prague  
and David Gow in Bonn

**T**HE first emergency meeting of the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) reached agreement late last night on sending a "good offices" mission to Yugoslavia to help the political dialogue between the warring factions.

The Soviet Union had earlier opposed the idea, fearing the creation of a precedent of "interference in internal affairs" which could be used in its own case. But a Soviet spokesman said it had now been agreed that any such mission could only be sent on the invitation of the country concerned.

Meanwhile, European Community foreign ministers, set to suspend all aid to Yugoslavia at a special session in the Hague later today, were last night split down the middle over moves to recognise Slovenian and Croatian independence.

The emergency CSCE meeting in Prague — widely considered a test case for the organisation's new security structures — was expected to continue debate today. All decisions taken by the CSCE must be made by consensus of all its 35 members.

There had been some progress about another CSCE proposal, backing the European Community's efforts to help supervise a ceasefire, when Yu-

goslavia approved the idea. However, the Soviet Union was arguing that the CSCE should play a bigger role in the process.

A senior western official had complained that Moscow was failing to recognise the importance of the Community as a world player and was "still so negative about any creative use of the 35".

Moscow, Yugoslavia, and Canada were believed to be particularly worried about including mention of the need for a "new constitutional order" in Yugoslavia, which was later omitted from a draft resolution.

However, the chief of the Yugoslav delegation, Novak Pribicevic, spoke of a growing recognition in Yugoslavia that its present constitutional arrangement was "spent".

Gianni de Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, who came to the meeting straight from a visit to Yugoslavia on behalf of the EC, pleaded with delegates to introduce a sense of urgency into their deliberations, saying a CSCE decision would have high practical and political value in helping to overcome the "confidence gap" between the warring parties.

With an eye to Soviet fears, he said the presence of Europe in Yugoslavia "should in no way represent dangerous outside interference... Yugoslavia should know that Europe is prepared to act as a bridge for political dialogue."

Meanwhile, the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, under pressure from his own party to opt for outright recognition, warned of "severe sanctions" if the Yugoslav army carried out renewed threats of war against the two republics.

Germany believes an agreed solution could be to force the Yugoslav authorities to stick to their recent Berlin declaration that the issue should be decided by the people themselves.

The German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, added that any fresh evidence of disobedience or arbitrary use of force by the army would be met by "the sharpest political and economic reactions".

But Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, who chairs today's meeting, warned that merely the threat to grant recognition would "exacerbate the tension and the violence", unleashing fresh problems, particularly among minorities in Slovenia and Croatia.

However, his Belgian counterpart, Mark Eyskens, while acknowledging that the threat of international recognition was a "two-edged sword", said Yugoslavia could not be held together if one group simply carried on oppressing another.

Yugoslavia's neighbours, including Austria and Hungary, are set to grant recognition at a special meeting tomorrow. Mr de Michelis, who has also invited Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, and Albania,