

Slovenia 'should be allowed to secede'

**By Michael Montgomery
in Belgrade**

SLOVENIA should be allowed to secede from the Yugoslav federation, Mr Branko Kostic, federal vice-president, has suggested.

In comments published yesterday, as Yugoslavia's leaders discussed Slovenia's declaration of independence, Mr Kostic, whose republic of Montenegro is a close ally of Serbia, said he believed Slovenia "has been written off for Yugoslavia".

Federal troops should be withdrawn and no attempt made to disarm Slovenia's territorial forces, he said.

● The Yugoslav state presidency today said it had adopted the peace plan proposed by the EC to avert civil war. Yugoslavia's federal leaders and the republics had accepted the Brioni declaration in principle last Sunday.

The collective presidency, grouping all the country's eight republics and provinces except Slovenia, which refused to attend, issued a statement after 14 hours of talks described by official sources as "stormy".

Under the agreement, Slovenian police will be allowed to control the republic's international border checkpoints but they will answer to federal authorities.