

# Yugoslav violence threatens accord

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VIOLENCE between Croats and Serbs yesterday put in jeopardy the memorandum to implement the Brioni peace accord, which had been agreed on Saturday night.

A gun battle between Croat police units and Serbs broke out in Donji Cuntic, a village 30 miles south-east of Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, after local Serbs surrounded the village police station.

A policeman was killed sitting in his patrol car and four were hurt when heavily-armed Serbs stormed the police station in Glina, near Petrinja. Another policeman died and seven people were hurt in the besieged villages, police said. Four villages in the area, including Donji Cuntic, were reportedly evacuated and heavy gunfire was heard elsewhere in eastern Croatia.

The memorandum, agreed between representatives from the European Community, Slovenia and Croatia, set down conditions for implementing the Brioni accord. Yugoslavia's state presidency also accepted the accord, which was drawn up by the EC last week.

The conditions include sending between 30 and 50 EC observers to monitor the ceasefire in Slovenia and, if necessary, in Croatia, for three months. They would also supervise a three-month suspension of Slovenia's and Croatia's declarations of independence.

The disarming of all paramilitary units in the republics, except federal army units and regular police forces, had been agreed at the weekend by the collective presidency.

The accord called for a ceasefire, the withdrawal to barracks of Slovene and federal units and the three-month moratorium on independence.

However, its acceptance was linked to fresh demands which were set by the presidency but influenced by the federal army.

The presidency stipulated that:

- All local paramilitary units disarm by July 18, including units in Slovenia and Croatia.

- Recruitment of conscripts into the federal army should be resumed in return for demobilisation of those units called up to compensate for the shortfall in conscription.

However, the presidency's order was undermined as soon as Mr Stipe Mesic, a Croat and president of the state presidency, returned to Zagreb and said Croatia would not disarm its own republican guard.

In the climate of increasing polarisation between the republics, the Croatian government believes the federal army is increasingly becoming a Serb-dominated army which will defend the Serbs in Croatia against Croat police.