

Yugoslav leaders to meet EC on crisis

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YUGOSLAV federal leaders will meet foreign ministers of the 12 European Community states in Brussels on Monday to discuss the country's crisis.

Mr Ante Markovic, the Yugoslav prime minister, and Mr Budimir Loncar, the foreign minister, will meet EC foreign ministers for what diplomats said was intended as an exchange of information.

Mr Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, said yesterday that France would look favourably on the idea of sending more observers or an EC buffer force to Yugoslavia if it helped to resolve the crisis.

Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher of Germany and Mr Gianni De Michelis of Italy proposed that leaders from Croatia and Slovenia be invited to the talks in Brussels too. However, EC diplomats said most Community states were against such an invitation because it might be taken to confer diplomatic recognition on the two secessionist republics.

Four Croat policemen were badly wounded yesterday in fresh clashes between Croats

and Serbs near the region of Krajina in Croatia.

Serbs in Krajina, a self-proclaimed autonomous region, have formed their own militia in rebellion against the Croat government.

Fighting between Serbs and Croat police was reported in Slunj, a village in central Croatia. Gunfire and explosions were also reported in Slavonija, eastern Croatia. At least 30 Croat policemen and 10 civilians have been killed since Friday in clashes in Slavonija.

Violence, which has sharply escalated since Croatia and Slovenia declared independence on June 25, threatens to spread to other ethnically mixed regions in the six Yugoslav republics.

But the country's politicians have made no progress in peace talks which collapsed earlier this week.

The 220-member federal parliament yesterday appealed for an end to the killings in an emergency session which was boycotted by delegates from Croatia and Slovenia.