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SUBJECT: EUROPEAN BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 19 SEPTEMBER 1989.

[REDACTED] YUGOSLAVIA: GROWING SERB-CROAT TENSIONS [REDACTED]

THE CROATIAN COMMUNIST PARTY PRESIDUM LAST WEEK CHARGED THAT THE LEADERS OF NEIGHBORING VOJVODINA PROVINCE, ALLIES OF SERBIAN STRONGMAN MILOSEVIC, ARE STIRRING UP CROATIA'S ETHNIC SERB MINORITY. THE CROATIANS HAVE LAUNCHED A NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHARGES FROM SERBIA AND VOJVODINA OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SERBS IN CROATIA. THE SERBIAN PRESS AND SERB PROTEST GROUPS HAVE FANNED SERB DISCONTENT IN CROATIA; NUMEROUS SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE LED TO THE ARREST OF ONE SERB PROTEST LEADER. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE CROATIAN PARTY STATEMENT INDICATES RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COUNTRY'S TWO MOST POWERFUL REPUBLICS ARE DETERIORATING. THE TRIAL OF THE SERB PROTEST LEADER THAT BEGINS TOMORROW MAY LEAD TO MORE BITTER EXCHANGES BETWEEN SERBS AND CROATS. THE RESULTANT TENSIONS FURTHER DIM ALREADY POOR PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON PRESSING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORMS AT A PARTY CONGRESS SET FOR DECEMBER. [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~