

YUGOSLAVIA: Army Threatens Croatia

The Army yesterday ordered Croatia to immediately disband the national guard units now being mobilized and indicated it would use force to neutralize them if necessary. The Army also said it would try in military courts those it believes organized "illegal" militias. It accused Croatian forces of planning terrorist attacks on military assets and of working on behalf of foreign powers.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Military leaders evidently remain determined to stop Croatia's creation of a republic armed force. The Army's statement also indicates it expects resistance to an attempt to arrest officials of the non-Communist ruling party and is prepared to suppress it. Military leaders may be blustering, but they have never before made such explicit threats or taken such concrete steps to back up their words. Croatian leaders may agree to stop mobilization at current levels but almost certainly will refuse to disband their national guard; such a response would not satisfy the Army, and fighting could break out soon. [REDACTED]