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YUGOSLAVIA: Army Increases Role in Croatia

The Yugoslav Army's deployment last Sunday to Serb-populated areas of Croatia did not have prior federal Presidency approval. [redacted] The Defense Ministry subsequently warned that the Army would not allow Croatian police or militia forces in the region and that it would ensure the entry of local conscripts to the federal Army. Army units and the Croatian militia continued their standoff yesterday. Meanwhile, republic leaders continued wrangling over the proposed referendums on a future model for Yugoslavia [redacted]

[redacted] The Army's deployments have put it in control of Serb-populated regions and could lead to de facto partition of Croatia if Zagreb moves toward independence. The Army's actions indicate it may not be willing to let republic leaders alone decide the future of the federation, but it is still avoiding direct involvement in the political debate and can justify its actions by the need to deter ethnic violence. Yesterday's fifth summit of republic leaders—only one more is scheduled—shows how little they have narrowed differences on most basic issues. [redacted]

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30 April 1991