

Mrs. McDougall condemned the seizure of power by a group of four members of the Yugoslav collective Presidency, all associated with Serbia, calling it a negative development in the Yugoslav crisis. This message was conveyed on October 4 to the Yugoslav Ambassador in Ottawa.

Canada believes that the "twin-track" approach agreed on October 4 is the most realistic way to solve the crisis. This agreement provides for those republics that wish it to gain recognition in the framework of a general negotiated settlement that would protect minority rights, ensure against unilateral and forcible changes of borders, and provide for a loose association or alliance of sovereign republics. Premature recognition of Slovenia and Croatia could interfere with the possibility of achieving such a comprehensive settlement.

"Canada continues to be strongly opposed to the use of force to settle political differences and to achieve territorial gains. No territorial gains or border changes within Yugoslavia brought about by force are acceptable," said Mrs. McDougall.

As tension has mounted in Croatia, Canadians living there have been advised by letter on two separate occasions to leave the zones of conflict.

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