

When the crisis began, I instructed my Department to refuse systematically to issue any permits for the export of arms or other military goods to Yugoslavia. Canada has thus not only supported UN Resolution 713, but, indeed, moved in advance of it.

The Prime Minister and I have written to the leaders of the parties involved in the crisis urging them to end the violence and pursue a negotiated settlement. I have met with the Foreign Ministers of Yugoslavia and Croatia and will take every similar opportunity to do so in the future.

The Prime Minister and I have also regularly discussed these issues with our friends and allies in various forums.

Our Government continues to receive calls for recognition of those republics that have unilaterally declared independence and knows this is a sensitive point.

We shall continue to resist such pressure, because we believe, along with Members of the EC, the CSCE and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), that recognition of republics that wish to leave Yugoslavia should be given only within the framework of a general agreement. I have discussed this personally with both Cyrus Vance and Peter Carrington.

Recognition of Croatia and Slovenia at this time would signal the end of the negotiation process and would leave force and violence to settle the issue. It would also jeopardize the fate of other republics and minorities who have called for other kinds of arrangements for Yugoslavia.

We steadfastly believe that the first requirement for any political solution is peace in the region. Canadians are participating in the international ceasefire monitoring mission, as I pointed out, that was mandated by the CSCE and led by the European Community.

Canada will continue to do what it can in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to serve the cause of peace.

Also, Canada has fully supported peace efforts by the European Community. The EC has played a leading role in this crisis because it has more influence than anyone else on the Yugoslav Republics, several of which are seeking membership, or have at least expressed the hope of membership, in the Community. So the Community, it is believed, has some leverage.

Earlier this month, we joined the European Community in announcing a package of sanctions designed to apply pressure to the various factions in Yugoslavia. Specifically: