

STATE AND NATIONAL

Croatian independence could threaten fragile cease-fire

By Josh Boyer
Staff Writer

The European Community's recognition of Croatia and Slovenia as independent states raises new questions about the prospects for peace in war-torn Yugoslavia.

The EC's declaration Wednesday could threaten the cease-fire that has held since Jan. 2. Some EC representatives fear the Serb-dominated federal government might continue military operations against the Croats to halt the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

"We sincerely hope the prospects for peace won't diminish," said Mornico Koprivica, counselor for press of the Yugoslav embassy in Washington, D.C. "But we are absolutely uncertain whether what has happened will enhance the prospects for peace or cause further complications."

The recognition of Croatian independence changes the scope of a war that started as a civil conflict between ethnic groups. Now the war has been transformed into an international issue.

Croatia, as a recognized independent nation, can call for military and economic assistance from neighboring countries should the Serbs continue fighting, said UNC history Professor Josef Anderle.

Without Croatian and Slovenian independence, many EC representatives feared that fighting would continue, Anderle said. But the United States wants stronger assurances that Serbs living in Croatia will be protected before it recognizes the two states' independence, he said.

President Bush also is hesitant to recognize Croatian independence because of the alliance the United States has shared with the Yugoslav government since World War II, Anderle said. A State Department official speaking on the condition of anonymity said last week that the United States and the EC share the common goal of ending the fighting, but any peace settlement should include strong protection of national rights.

"We have made it clear that we are firmly opposed to changes of the borders of any Yugoslav republic by force or intimidation," the official said.

Serb and Croat forces have been engaged in a brutal conflict since Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia June 25, 1991. During the six months of fighting, both sides have agreed to and broken 14 cease-fires. The most recent truce has held the longest, Anderle said.

Barbara Hicks, UNC political science instructor, said the latest cease-fire would hold if the United Nations plays a more immediate role in the peace process. Last week, the United Nations sent a 50-member peace-keeping force to monitor the cease-fire.

The EC did not grant official recognition to two additional Yugoslav republics — Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia — although both have declared independence.

The Yugoslav government would like to protect Serb regions of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but Serb villages are intermixed with Muslim and Croat towns. Dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina into ethnic regions would be close to impossible, Anderle said.

The Macedonians cannot function without support from the Yugoslav government, he said. "Macedonia has nowhere to go," Anderle said. "They are a poor moun-

tain people who are completely dependent on Yugoslavia."

Hicks said the Yugoslav government has virtually fallen apart under the strain of the recent secessions.

"The federal government was set up to balance off nationality conflicts," Hicks said. "With parts of the government pulling out, the balance falls apart."

Two weeks ago, the Yugoslav army complicated the cease-fire by shooting down an EC observer helicopter. The army has accepted responsibility for the shooting and has begun an investigation, Koprivica said.

Richard Epps was student body president from 1972 to 1973 and also the first black student to hold this position. Epps also became the first student body president to serve on the Board of Trustees.

As a junior, Epps was chairman of the Honor Court and remained involved with the University even after his graduation, Heyd said.

Epps said he was surprised at the nomination he had received from Heyd. "Yes, I was surprised that I had been nominated, but pleasantly so," he said. "I had been a member of the Board of Trustees before."

In addition to his service with the Board of Visitors, Epps has been involved in other campus organizations. "I've served on the General Alumni

Trustees

Association Board and was one of the original organizers of the Black Alumni Reunion," he said.

Epps, an attorney, said that despite being busy running his private practice in Alexandria, Va., he would be de-

vised might not be recognized. "The recipient is the epitome of the lifestyle of Dr. King, and we want to recognize this student for their contributions."

A committee is working to establish an endowment to ensure that the scholarship becomes a permanent fixture of the University, Ervin said. An endowment would also make the scholarship more prestigious, and annual fund raising would no longer be necessary.

Service

Wright compared the struggle of blacks today to King's struggle in the 1960s.

"We know that it wasn't easy for Dr. King, and we know that it is not easy for us," he said. "We still have many more mountains to climb."

Watson said affirmative action laws and civil rights acts are necessary in the struggle for equal rights, Watson said. "Affirmative action is one of the prescriptions to help treat and maybe even place in remission the disease of racism in America," she said. "If the system was not sick in the first place, then there would be no need for civil rights laws."

Middle-aged black men need to take a more active role in the civil rights movement instead of merely relying on the traditional dominance of women and young people, Watson said.

"We not only need to learn to live together, we also need to learn to lead our people together," she said.

The music for the service included "We Shall Overcome," a song that became the anthem of the civil rights movement in the 1960s and the Black National Hymn, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Anderle said confusion within the federal force may have caused the incident.

"Many (federal troops) have deserted and are avoiding conscription," he said. "It's so bad that the Yugoslavian army isn't able to operate in a regular combat way."

The ethnic conflict between the Croats and Serbs historically has been a catalyst for worldwide violence. In 1914, tension between the two republics ignited World War I.

But the recent conflict is of a different nature, Hicks said. In the past, the

issue was the relationships of these small nations to large foreign empires. Now it involves internal Yugoslav politics.

Violence has become a part of the cultural mind-set in Yugoslavia, Anderle said.

"Violence became a pattern," he said. "People not only want to kill their enemy, but disfigure him as well."

But recent efforts by the United Nations and the EC may bring lasting peace to the region. "I'm optimistic that some agreement will be found," Anderle said. "Yugoslavia will still be there, but smaller."

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lighted to serve on the BOT if chosen.

"It's an honor," he said. "I would hope that all students would want the opportunity to serve the University. It's a fine university. I personally would be willing to serve it in any capacity."

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Ervin said the scholarship kept the memory of King alive. "It is one way of informing individuals who live in a different time about this particular American and why it's important to keep his contributions alive."

Thomas said, "In the community, in general, Dr. King is considered the greatest African-American leader who ever lived, so to be honored with an award in his name — that meant so much to me."

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us," Broun said. "We wish our brothers and sisters well in South Africa, but we must also realize we have many miles to go in America."

Alan McSurely, a local attorney active in civil rights, compared the UNC's personnel policies for its lowest paid workers to the plantation system treatment of slaves.

"We want the starting salaries for housekeepers upped to \$17,000," he said, adding that the average housekeeper's gross pay now is between \$12,000 and \$13,000.

Battle ended the speeches: "Let's not come together once a year and hear fine speakers — let's move forward as warriors; let's stamp racism where we see it and stand up for the truth."

The ceremony concluded with the audience holding hands and singing "We Shall Overcome."

David Duke struggling to land spot on GOP primary ballots

By Brandy Fisher
Staff Writer

Republican leaders in several states have launched widespread campaigns to keep controversial presidential candidate David Duke off primary ballots.

Duke, the former Ku Klux Klan leader turned right-wing politician, hopes to challenge President Bush for the Republican nomination.

But Duke's reputation as a racist and his lack of GOP support have stymied the Louisiana native's attempts to win a place on many state primary ballots.

Many Republicans worry that Duke's background will taint voters' opinions of other GOP candidates.

"There is every reason to distrust him — he's racist, anti-semitic and someone who is completely out of tune with the democratic values of our country," said William Leuchtenburg, a UNC Kenan professor of history.

Georgia, Rhode Island and Florida have declared Duke ineligible for inclusion on primary ballots. Several other states are determining whether the conservative challenger will meet state requirements for inclusion.

Duke first faced trouble in Massachusetts when Secretary of State Michael Connolly, by personal choice, announced that the former Klan leader's name would not be placed on the ballot for the state's May 10 primary. The threat of a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union forced Connolly to reverse his decision.

Although Duke has denounced his career in the Klan, his reputation has



cost him support from large factions of the Republican Party.

The Massachusetts GOP has refused to support Duke because the party normally backs incumbents, not because of the challenger's political beliefs, said Alan Safran, press secretary for the state Republican party.

Other state organizations recognize Duke as a political extremist, rather than a viable contender for the presidential nomination.

"He's not a legitimate candidate," said Eddie Woodhouse, communications director for the N.C. Republican Party. "He was a Democrat, now he's a Republican, and he'll turn somewhere else next."

March Vogel, treasurer of the Duval County, Fla., Republican executive committee, fears Florida voters will confuse Duke's Klan connection with the views of mainstream Republicans.

"We do not support him, because he comes from a violent background," Vogel said. "His association with the KKK was not an association with the Republican party."

Duke was disappointed with the decisions of election officials in Florida, Georgia and Rhode Island to keep him off primary ballots, said Nicole Berthouaud, assistant director of re-

search for the Duke campaign.

Duke, in conjunction with the ACLU, will file lawsuits against any state that denies his inclusion on primary ballots, Berthouaud said.

Because Duke has faced such strong opposition from the Republican Party, he may decide to run as a third party candidate in the November general election, she said.

"It's always an option, but he hasn't made any firm, fast decisions yet," Berthouaud said.

In North Carolina, Duke's name probably will not appear on the May 5 ballot, since the state board of elections requires candidates either to qualify for federal funding or to complete a 10,000-signature petition.

To meet the funding requirement, a candidate must get 20 state contributions of \$5,000 each.

Duke faces trouble in his attempt to meet either of these state requirements in time for the N.C. primary.

"Right now I'll be honest, I haven't heard any indication of support for Duke," Woodhouse said. "If someone stuck a gun to my head, I'd say he's gonna come up short."

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