The remains of the old, 21-year-old, now defunct former Yugoslav federation were officially laid to rest yesterday in two separate republics that had not declared themselves independent unannounced formation of a transitory version of the old South Slav union. The new state — called the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" — is composed of the old federation's largest republic, Serbia, and its smallest, Montenegro, and comprises less than two-fifths of the former Yugoslav territory and less than half its population. Leaders of the new state — proclaimed in Belgrade by Serbian and Montenegrin members of Yugoslavia's communist-run parliament — pledged that they would work to halt the ethnic war that destroyed the old six-republic federation, left more than 10,000 dead and created nearly 1.5 million refugees. "I hope the adoption of the new constitution will mark the ending of agony and chaos," said Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who has been accused by the United States and other western governments of being chief aggressor in the continuing conflict between Serbs and Croats in the former Yugoslav republics. In Croatia, local Serb military forces backed by the Serbian government and the Serb-led Yugoslav army seized about a third of that republic's territory in a series of heavy fighting, while in Bosnia, Serb paramilitary units and the army have been conducting a similar offensive over the past month. Because of Serbia's continued aggressive behavior in Bosnia, the United States has decided not to recognize the new Balkan union as the legal successor to Yugoslavia, a position that could deprive the new state of membership in the United Nations and of further association with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In Washington, State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler said: "We have explained to the Serbian leadership, not just our attitude about association relations with Serbia and Montenegro will be framed by their demonstrat- ed respect for the territorial integrity of the other former Yugoslav republics and for the Congress of minors on their territory. Tutwiler said that the United States will consider "their willingness to negotiate all related issues [at a continuing EC-sponsored peace conference] ... on the basis of mutual agreement with the other four republics," and she added: "The role of Serbia in the current violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be a major consideration." U.S. and European Community diplomats were confronted by their own congress of minors on their territory. Tutwiler said that the United States will consider "their willingness to negotiate all related issues [at a continuing EC-sponsored peace conference] ... on the basis of mutual agreement with the other four republics," and she added: "The role of Serbia in the current violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be a major consideration." U.S. and European Community diplomats were confronted by their own congress of minors on their territory. Tutwiler said that the United States will consider "their willingness to negotiate all related issues [at a continuing EC-sponsored peace conference] ... on the basis of mutual agreement with the other four republics," and she added: "The role of Serbia in the current violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be a major consideration." U.S. and European Community diplomats were confronted by their own congress of minors on their territory. Tutwiler said that the United States will consider "their willingness to negotiate all related issues [at a continuing EC-sponsored peace conference] ... on the basis of mutual agreement with the other four republics," and she added: "The role of Serbia in the current violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be a major consideration."