French Plea to End Fighting in Bosnia Is Rebuffed

Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic Thursday rebuffed appeals from French President Francois Mitterrand and Balkan peace mediators to join his nation's Serb militia forces now controlling about 70 percent of the battered republic and set in the midst of a new offensive in eastern Bosnia that could significantly enlarge their holdings. Under a comprehensive peace plan proposed by Vance and Owen, the republic would be divided into about 20 ethnic enclaves, with a council of experts to oversee the process of cleansing the populace and land. The Vance-Owen plan, which was agreed to by the warring Serbs and Croats and Slavic Muslims.

French President Francois Mitterrand, who was allied with Serbia during World War I, has maintained close ties with the Balkan republic and recently joined in European partners in bracing Serbia as the chief instigator of the Balkan conflicts. Although he disagrees with the Vance-Owen plan, he would back the plan and consider it as a basis for a final settlement. Mitterrand said Wednesday that the Vance-Owen plan was considered for the Senate should the United States vote to arm the Serbs in the war.

That the Vance-Owen plan was supported by the United States' top judge, His allies warned that the law ataying Friday could prove fatal to Russian reforms.

President Boris N. Yeltsin, in a letter to his ally, has proposed a new Russian constitution that would give the president more powers, in effect resolving the tug-of-war between Yeltsin and the legislature. Though Russia's Senate recently held hearings on the Vance-Owen plan, Yeltsin had warned world leaders that, as a last, best-dado option, it would allow the Congress and assume emsary powers. In a stem 20-minute address, he was divided into 10 zones dominated by local communal councils. Under a compromise proposed in surely this, Yeltsin said: "The Congress must choose between cooperation and confrontation. It's either or."

But the Congress, a Soviet-era creation largely hostile to his radical recipes for the economy's transformation, went ahead and voted to cut back his powers even more.

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