

## Slovenia Reports 100 Wounded or Killed

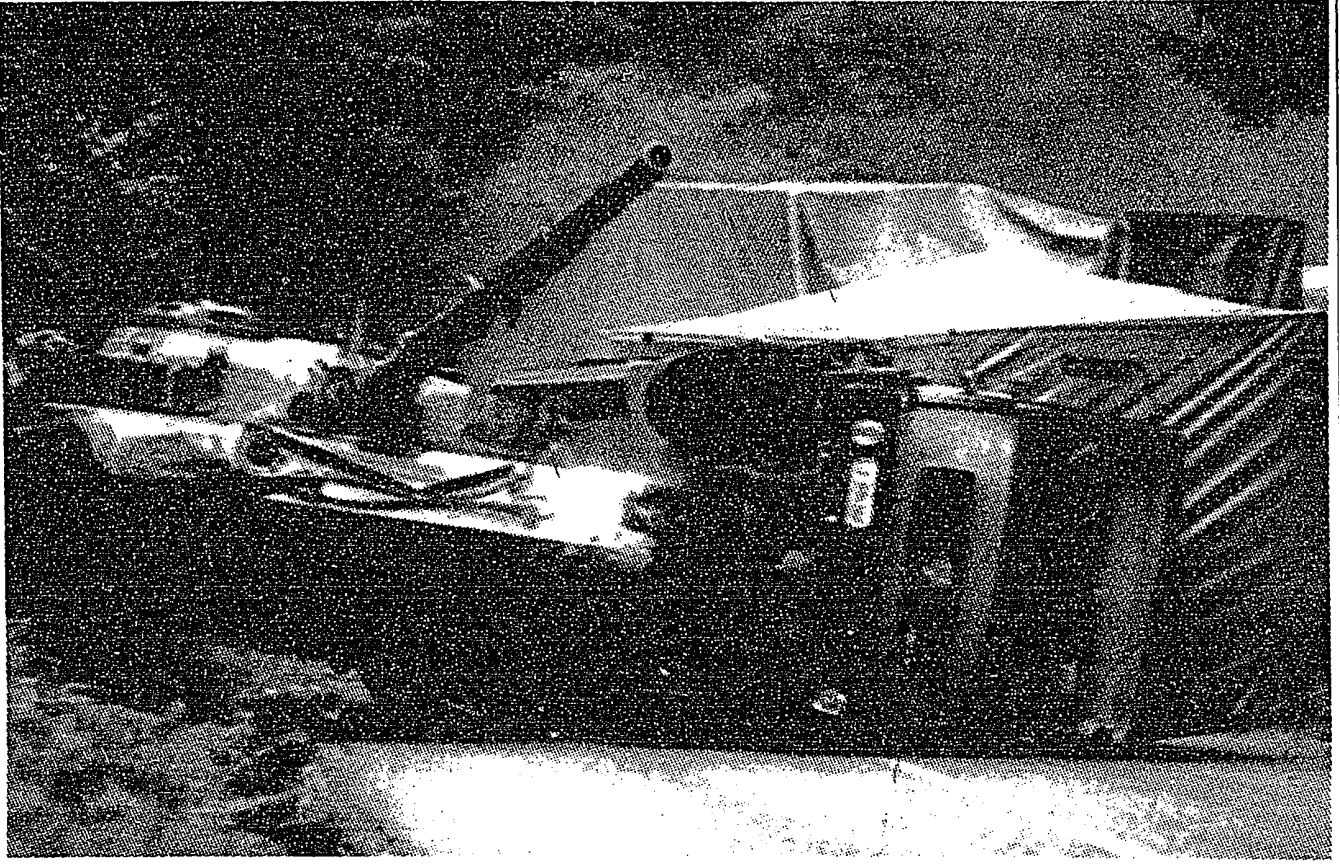
By JOHN TAGLIABUE Special to The New York Times

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# Yugoslav Army Uses Force in Breakaway Republic



A Yugoslav Army tank pushing aside a truck that formed part of a barricade on a road leading to the airport in the Slovenian capital of Ljubljana. About 100 casualties were reported in the clashes, but estimates varied. Reuters

## Slovenia Reports 100 Wounded or Killed

By JOHN TAGLIABUE

Special to The New York Times

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Friday, June 28 — Yugoslav Army units used force today to take control of several border posts from the Slovenian authorities and deployed tanks and troops around Slovenian airports to keep the republic from putting its independence proclamation into effect.

On Thursday, two days after the republics of Slovenia and Croatia proclaimed their independence, the first skirmishes were reported between national Yugoslav troops and militias loyal to Slovenia. The Slovenian Defense Minister, Janez Jansa, reported fighting in at least 20 places and estimated that more than 100 people had been killed or wounded.

"To put it briefly, Slovenia is at war," said Mr. Jansa, who was dressed in combat fatigues.

The clashes fed tensions here and in the breakaway republics by forcing the question of whether the crisis in Yugoslavia could be solved peacefully. Diplomatic efforts seemed to be going nowhere.

### Helicopters Downed

There were conflicting reports on casualties and the extent of the fighting. Seeking to calm Yugoslav citizens, the federal authorities in Belgrade emphasized that only a few thousand troops were involved and that they were under orders to avoid clashes.

But the Slovenian Defense Minister said Thursday night on television in Ljubljana, the republic's capital, that in addition to the 100 casualties reported in the fighting, six federal army helicopters had been shot down. And this morning, a Slovenian government spokesman in Ljubljana said a member of a Slovene police patrol passing a national army barracks in Maribor was shot and killed by a soldier in the barracks.

Convoys of federal tanks were reported near Ljubljana, with some involved in a tense standoff with Slovenian forces at the city's airport.

Yugoslav television showed army tanks plowing their way toward Gori-

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# Yugoslavia Battles Breakaway Republic

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ca, on the Italian border as glum Slovenes stood silently by. The tanks shoved aside buses and bulldozers that Slovenes had parked in the streets in a vain effort to halt the federal troops.

Slovenian officials said this morning that 15 army tanks had been disabled by anti-tank missiles and that federal soldiers were using helicopters to ferry troops to the less accessible border points.

On Thursday, republic officials reported shooting at a checkpoint on the Slovenian border with Austria, where Yugoslav army troops used grenades to dislodge regional defense forces.

In an emotional statement, the Slovenian President, Milan Kucan, called the federal army action an "aggression against the sovereignty of the country" and an "attempt at permanent occupation" of Slovenia. He called on Slovenes to defend their fatherland and urged young people serving in the federal army to desert.

In Belgrade, the Government described the crisis in equally dramatic terms, declaring in a statement that the situation was "highly critical" and that failure to defuse it would "unavoidably lead to bloodshed with unforeseeable consequences for all the people of Yugoslavia."

## Unrest Brewing for Months

Political and ethnic unrest has been brewing for months in the two breakaway republics. Both Slovenia and Croatia have warned that they would secede if Yugoslavia was not remolded as a looser federation. Despite the independence declarations, leaders of Slovenia and Croatia, both relatively wealthy and pro-Western republics, have said they are still willing to negotiate a new Yugoslav union.

But they have met resistance from Serbia, the largest and most populous republic, and the one that controls the national military.

Serbia, which is governed by re-named and reconstituted Communists, is frequently blamed for undermining Yugoslavia's attempts at market-based economic reforms. Serbia wants to strengthen the splintering federation and said it would accept the loose confederation advocated by Slovenia and Croatia only if all the country's Serbs were brought within the borders of a single state. Croatia, which has a large Serbian minority, opposes that idea. And that minority, which accounts for about 500,000 of Croatia's 4.8 million people, is rebelling against attempts by the republic to break away.

A major catalyst to Croatia's independence movement was Serbia's refusal last month to accept the appointment of a Croatian, Stipe Mesic, as chairman of the collective Presidency because of his separatist leanings.

## 2 Republics Largely Cut Off

Efforts to reopen lines of communication with the two dissident republics were bearing little fruit. After a session of the Yugoslav Cabinet, the federal Prime Minister, Ante Markovic, offered to meet his Slovenian counterpart, Lojze Peterle. He proposed that declarations of independence by the Slovenian and Croatian parliaments on Tuesday be frozen for a three-month period, giving regional representatives and federal officials time to negotiate. But the Slovenian leadership rejected the proposal, calling on Belgrade to remove its soldiers and then talk.

Concern among Yugoslavia's neighbors appeared to be mounting.

Austria said it would invoke new rules of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe that empower member nations to demand information about unusual troop movements.

Several tourism companies were reportedly preparing to evacuate at least 15,000 British tourists from Yugoslavia, whose beaches along the Adriatic attract large numbers of foreigners each summer.

There was concern that the conflict between the Yugoslav Government and the two republics would widen further when Croatia warned that it would order its lightly armed forces to attack

federal army units in the region if they did not return to their barracks.

On Thursday, Yugoslav television showed army tanks positioned between the Croatian police and armed Serbs in lanes of the Croatian village of Glina, where roughly two-thirds of the population is Serb. The tanks were deployed after Serbs attacked a police station and an officer and two civilians were killed.

After a meeting in Zagreb, the republic's capital, on Thursday, Croatian leaders said that federal troop movements in the republic might be a harbinger of military action similar to the crackdown in Slovenia. The reports could not be independently confirmed.

Reports of casualties varied widely. Slovenian officials said that a Yugoslav Army officer was killed in fighting near Ormoz, toward the Austrian border, on Thursday. But the federal Deputy Defense Minister, Vice Adm. Stane Brovet, denied there had been any deaths. He said three army officers, two of them helicopter crewmen, were wounded when their aircraft came under small-weapons fire.

Belgrade television said that three

## National Army tanks shove aside the Slovenes' barricades.

soldiers died when a helicopter crashed in downtown Ljubljana.

The Government appeared to be seeking first to bridge the gap with Slovenia, since that republic went further on Tuesday by declaring itself a sovereign and independent republic.

In a gesture toward Croatia, the Yugoslav Cabinet said that the country's collective presidency should convene as soon as possible and suggested that it would no longer block the appointment of Mr. Mesic as chairman.

But Thursday evening, Belgrade television said that the Serbian leadership continued to reject Mr. Mesic.

At a news conference on Thursday, Admiral Brovet said the army hoped to secure the borders by the evening, and Belgrade television, which usually presents the central Government's views, said that the goal had been achieved. But a Slovenian spokesman in Ljubljana said this morning that the Yugoslav national army controls 7 border crossings to Italy and 5 to Austria, while the republic forces hold the remaining 15. The spokesman said the national army attacked a border crossing at Holmec at about 5:30 A.M. and

## Unrest that has bubbled for months is now uncorked.

the small mortar fire caused an under-terminated number of injuries.

Admiral Brovet conceded that the move to retake border posts was proceeding slowly, but he attributed that to efforts to avoid bloodshed.

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