

IPU confce concludes today German MPs for strong steps against Bosnia war criminals

CANBERRA, Sept 17: German parliamentarians, here for an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference called today for strong international measures against war criminals in the one-time Yugoslavia, reports AFP.

One senior German government MP, Lenni Fischer, told the congress she was "really ashamed that within a civilised region that Europe is supposed to be these things can happen."

The Germans have received initial IPU backing through a firmly-worded resolution condemning war crimes and calling for a permanent international court to try those responsible.

The full IPU conference, of about 500 MPs from 103 nations, will vote on the draft reso-

lution on Saturday's final day of the week-long congress.

The resolution says the IPU meeting "severely condemns the odious practice known as 'ethnic cleansing' in war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina," and calls for "a statute for an international court of criminal justice," and requests all governments to grant refuge to "victims of expulsion and displacement."

The resolution would not have a binding force on the member parliaments of the IPU.

But IPU delegates are expected to raise the issue when they return to their national parliament, with the German delegates hoping the additional political pressure will spur world action.

International

Euro-Parliament votes for use of force in Bosnia

STRASBOURG, France, Sept 17: The European Parliament voted on Thursday for military action to end the war in Bosnia, calling on the 12 EC-member state to enforce United Nations resolutions, reports Reuter.

Although the vote is not binding on EC governments and the assembly has no power over foreign policy, it was the first time the parliament had voted for the use of force in what used to be Yugoslavia.

The proposal was tabled and supported by most of the parliament's political parties, including to the socialists, Christian democrats and liberals.

APP adds: International peace mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg told Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin Thursday that they hoped to see a peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina before the

end of the year.

The three men met shortly after Bosnian Muslim and Serb leaders signed a ceasefire pact in Geneva which called for a "prompt cessation of all hostilities and military conflicts" between Muslims and Serbs "immediately and by no later than September 18" (Saturday) at noon.

E.C mediator Owen and his U.N. counterpart Stoltenberg told Cetin in Istanbul that they hoped to see a "definitive peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina" before the onset of winter.

And Cetin said Turkey hoped that the plan would be "realistic and lasting."

Cetin added he wanted to hold talks with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic before a meeting of all three warring sides convened for Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. (0900 GMT) at

Sarajevo airport.

According to Cetin, Owen

talked during the meeting of the

Muslims' difficulty in getting

their "just and well-founded" demands to territory and an ac-

cess to the sea.

The two mediators gave a

brief statement Thursday when

they arrived in Istanbul saying

they were "satisfied" with the

ceasefire pact signed between

Izetbegovic and the head of the

Bosnian Serb assembly,

Momcilo Krajanik, representing

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan

Kradic.

Earlier Thursday Cetin told

representatives of European

nations Europe was "morally

guilty for the deaths of 200,000

people in Bosnia."

Meanwhile, withdrawing

Croat troops set fire to three

Serb villages in a disputed re-

gion of southern Croatia just

before U.N. peacekeeping troops

moved in to enforce a local

ceasefire.

"I guess they are taking care

of business before we get in,"

said one U.N. soldier on

Thursday as he watched the

smoke rising from the villages

about 185 km (115 miles)

south of Zagreb.

U.N. Protection Force (

UNPROFOR) troops arrived in armoured vehicles at the hamlet of Donji Selo only moments after the departing Croat soldiers

set barns and houses alight.

The Croats also ignited am-

munition stockpiles, producing

loud explosions over the soul-

dering villages.

The effects of the Croatian withdrawal resembled a brush fire as smoke billowed for sev-

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