

Don't Let Us Founder, East Europe Says

By Alan Riding
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PARIS — Dampening the euphoria surrounding a 34-state summit conference called to celebrate the end of the Cold War, East European leaders warned Tuesday of a threat to future stability if the ideological separation of Europe was replaced by an economic and social divide.

"Our common future may be darkened by the sinister clouds of the resurging conflicts of bygone days unless the split into a rich and a poor Europe, an 'A' class and a 'B' class Europe, is overcome," Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki of Poland told the conference.

While announcing plans to seek the formal

dissolution of the six-nation Warsaw Pact, Hungary's prime minister, Jozsef Antall, cautioned West European leaders that "a new Welfare Wall may arise in the place of the Iron Curtain."

With the former Soviet bloc's economic plight casting a shadow across the second day of the three-day Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, leader after leader spoke somberly of the related dangers of ethnic, nationalist and border disputes in the region.

With President Mikhail S. Gorbachev of the Soviet Union sitting beside him, President Borisav Jovic of Yugoslavia, a country already being torn by nationalist strife, recalled that "in situations of political and economic instability

and national bigotry, democracy falls as the first victim."

Mr. Antall made no reference to Hungary's problem of minorities, but he recognized that, "despite the changes that have taken place in the direction of democracy, we now see ethnic or nationality problems emerging in Europe, sometimes with greater intensity than in the past."

Outside the glittering hall of the Kléber International Conference Center near the Arc de Triomphe, the mood was no more cheerful, as the mounting threat of a Gulf war continued to dominate the private conversations of Presi-

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dent George Bush, Mr. Gorbachev and other leaders.

In the evening, though, the 11 presidents, 22 prime ministers and a representative of Pope John Paul II took a break, attending a ballet and a state banquet held by President François Mitterrand at the 17th century Versailles Palace, west of Paris.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev raised the issue of the Gulf crisis when they addressed the meeting on Monday, but the Soviet leader focused more on Europe, calling for a new "economic, environmental and technological foundation" to shield new democracies from "dangerous outbreaks of nationalism and separatism."

Echoing this theme Tuesday, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany, who has already taken a lead in organizing food and other aid for the Soviet Union, said the breakthrough of the past year in human and minority rights "must not be

undermined by new discord between neighbors or nationalities."

"Following the opening of national borders," he continued, turning to the economic needs of the East, "there must be no borders which perpetuate the prosperity divide. The ideological gulfs that have been overcome must not be torn open again by social gaps."

Recalling Germany's own "moral and political responsibility" for Europe's convulsed history in this century, Mr. Kohl pledged that "peace alone will emanate from German soil," and he promised to continue supporting the process of economic, political and social change in Eastern Europe.

Although welcoming the changes that have swept Europe in the past year, many speakers focused not only on the need to consolidate Eastern Europe's new democracies, but also on the measures, including the creation of a Conflict Prevention Center, that will be included in

a final declaration to be adopted Wednesday.

It was Hungary's prime minister, though, who addressed the need to bury the Warsaw Pact, the former Soviet bloc's military alliance that only a day before the Czechoslovak president, Vaclav Havel, had described as "an outdated remnant of the past."

With Mr. Gorbachev and his defense minister, Marshal Dmitri A. Yazov, listening across the room, Mr. Antall said, "We trust that the prerequisites for a complete dissolution of the Warsaw Treaty will be brought about through the European security process at the latest by the New Year of 1992."

Mr. Antall later told reporters that Hungary had invited its five remaining Warsaw Pact partners — East Germany automatically left the alliance when Germany was united in October — to a meeting in Budapest next month to plan the dismantling of the pact's military structures.