Freh National Security

President Clinton's Defense

Military Option Still Alive

By Stanley Meilner

President Clinton, in an effort to head off a renewed offensive against the embattled Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, on Thursday that "the NATO military option is still very much alive."

The warning of possible air attacks on Serb positions came as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher led a two-day diplomatic effort to avert the collapse of the peace talks in Geneva the day before.

The United States and Croats to accept the Muslim demand for additional land in a proposed Bosnian confederation for three ethnic states.

Both the president and Christopher called on all sides to return to the negotiating table and work out a treaty. But a former Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg, one of the mediators, believed that there was no chance for a quick resumption of talks.

Stoltenberg has reported that he now expects the talks to last "weeks, with thousands more dying, the official said.

"I was surprised," he said, "that the state of affairs in this respect stands that any further land exchange has so far been limited."

"But even with the latest "invasion," there are signs that perhaps the United States and the United Nations are starting to see the light in the distance." Clinton said.

The warning of possible air attacks on the Serbs came as Clinton met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in his first official face-to-face meeting.

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