NATO vows to aid Yugoslav neighbors

WASHINGTON (AP) - In a summit-ending show of solidarity, NATO leaders promised military protection and economic aid to Yugoslavia's neighbors for standing with the West against Slobodan Milosevic. "If Mr. Milosevic threatens them for helping us, we will respond," President Clinton promised.

Before winding up the three-day meeting with his allies in the military operation against the Serbs in Yugoslavia, Clinton telephoned Boris Yeltsin on Sunday and urged the Russian leader to press Milosevic to accept a peaceful solution to the crisis.

The 19 NATO leaders agreed in their 50th anniversary summit to move toward an oil embargo to hinder Milosevic despite Russian objections and French misgivings over forcibly searching ships at sea.

Defense Secretary William Cohen said the allies agreed it was important to cut down the supply of fuel going to Yugoslavia's "war machine." He said the NATO leaders expected recommendations from their military officials "in a very short period of time" on the exact steps that might be taken.

The NATO leaders agreed to intensify air attacks against Yugoslavia. But there was no agreement of the possibility of introducing ground forces.

But in Russia - one of NATO's nonmember "partners" - Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov said, "We will have to pay more attention to defense" if a ground war is launched.

Clinton said the world one day would see this as a historic a summit during which the leaders agreed to expand NATO's shield.

In one of their final acts, NATO's leaders sat down with the representatives of the "frontline states" -Yugoslavia's seven neighbors, all feeling the fallout from the combat in Kosovo - and promised to stand by

French President Jacques Chirac, a NATO airstrikes.

sometimes reluctant ally, took the opportunity to issue his own warning to Milosevic, telling him not to use force against Montenegro, which along with Serbia constitutes Yugoslavia.

Albania and Macedonia have been particularly hard hit, taking in nearly 500,000 Kosovar Albanian refugees fleeing from Yugoslav military action. The other neighboring countries are Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Slovenia.

"They need help and we are giving it to them," NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said. "We will not tolerate threats against them or attacks on them by Belgrade."

Clinton and Yeltsin talked for nearly an hour by phone. Russia has expressed outrage about NATO's airstrikes in Yugoslavia and has threatened to ignore Western oil embargo.

Clinton believes Russia is very serious about trying to resolve the Kosovo crisis, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said. Clinton urged Yeltsin to continue peacemaking and said the two leaders would stay in touch. Berger said Russia would not be exempt from the

The 19 allies met in a summit finale with leaders of two dozen other Central and Eastern European countries that have banded in partnership with the

alliance. Russia stayed away.

Anxious about inflaming tensions with Moscow further, the allies said they were trying to avoid a confrontation at sea over blockading oil supplies to Serbia. Foreign ministers of the European Union will gather Monday in Luxembourg to ratify their oil embargo against Yugoslavia.

Meeting here to commemorate NATO's 50th anniversary, summit leaders sent a message of unity and resolve demanding that Milosevic to back

The summit concluded on day 33 of

Neo-Nazi group bombs U.K. neighborhoods

LONDON (AP) - Britain's ethnic racially motivated violence, police said Sunday, a day after a neo-Nazi group claimed responsibility for a nail bomb that injured seven people.

The bombing in an area of London heavily populated by immigrants was the second of two attacks in eight days that have injured a total of 46 people, prompting fears of a systematic campaign to terrorize minorities.

"We retain very serious fears that this could be a continuing series of vicious attacks," said David Vaness of the Metropolitan police force. "We cannot in any way rule out the fact that those attacks might be taken to locations outside the London area."

A neo-Nazi organization, Combat 18, claimed responsibility for Saturday's afternoon explosion on a busy street in Brick Lane, home to a large Bangladeshi community. Authorities said the blast was caused by a nail bomb planted in a parked

The group was also among four self-styled far-right organizations that claimed to have planted a nail bomb that exploded April 17, injuring 39 people in Brixton, a racially mixed south London neighborhood.

In addition, several black lawminorities may be facing a wave of makers reported receiving threatening letters signed by "White Wolves" - the same signature that appeared on a document detailing a bombing campaign that was faxed to a radio station a week before the Brixton attack, a newspaper reported.

London's Sunday Telegraph quoted the document as stating that all "non-whites and Jews" still in Britain by the end of the year would be exterminated. The newspaper, quoting unidentified sources, said police dismissed the document as a prank.

Police Commissioner Sir Paul Condon said the Brixton and Brick Lane attacks - both with crude nail bombs placed in large bags appeared linked.

"Clearly, this is a racial crime," Condon said.

The victims from Saturday's bombing - all but one of them Bangladeshis - suffered slight injuries, police said.

Britain's Commission for Racial Equality said the bombings were an apparent reaction to an official inquiry into the bungled police investigation of the fatal stabbing of a black London teen in 1993. The report said the London police force was riddled with racism.

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