

Clinton meets with Israeli's Barak, makes appeal for Middle East peace

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton was making another appeal Sunday to end the violence in the Middle East, meeting at the White House with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak three days after a visit with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Barak, whose trip was delayed after twice reversing his plane's

course due to a hijacking crisis at home, has offered little hope the meeting could help to end the bloodshed that has killed nearly 200 people in the past six weeks.

The violence has shattered what remained of Clinton's hopes for a settlement before his term ends in January.

Arafat, who held discussions

Thursday with the president, indicated afterward that he would consider another Middle East summit, with Clinton as host, provided it was well-prepared "to ensure its success." And that, the Palestinian leader said, meant an accord on both Jerusalem and refugees.

Barak has refused to turn over East Jerusalem to the Palestinians,

but offered them a larger role in running their daily affairs in Israel's declared capital. He has called a time-out in peacemaking until the violence ends.

Sunday's meeting was set for early afternoon but was pushed back into the evening because of the hijacking. A Russian airliner headed to Moscow on a domestic flight was

seized by a Chechen man who surrendered after diverting the plane to Israel's southern desert. The 57 passengers and crew were all safe, officials said.

As the hijacking ended, Barak's plane reversed course for a second time and headed back for Washington. Barak left Israel on Saturday night before the hijacking began. But

at a stopover in London, he was to return to Israel to deal with the crisis. He was still in the air as the hijacking approached a resolution when he decided to resume his journey to the United States.

Barak was scheduled to arrive Monday evening in Chicago for a meeting of the United Jewish Communities.



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