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Netanyahu: We Need Pact to Preserve Jewish Israel

Israel Embassy Re-opens in Egypt After Four Year Closure



Israel has reopened an embassy in Cairo after four years of closure. The mission in Egypt closed its

doors in the aftermath of the storming of its former premises in 2011 amid anti-Israel protests.

Dore Gold, the director-general of Israel's foreign ministry [photo], attended the re-opening ceremony along with Israel's ambassador to Cairo, Haiem Koren. "Under the leadership of prime minister Netanyahu and president El-Sisi, we are working with Egypt to achieve stability in the region," Gold said, adding that "Egypt will always remain the region's biggest and most significant country."

Since the embassy's closing, Israel has carried out its mission's operations at the Israeli ambassador's residence in the district of Maadi, in south Cairo. The ambassador's residence will be officially used as the headquarters of the Israeli Embassy until a new building to host the mission is constructed.

Haim Koren was appointed as Israel's ambassador to Cairo in September, 2014. In June 2015, Egypt appointed Hazem Khairat as ambassador to Israel to fill a post that had been vacant since ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi recalled the previous envoy in 2012 to protest Israeli aggression against Gaza.

[Ahram.org]



A two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord is desirable not because it will have any significant influence on the turmoil roiling through the Middle East, but rather because this will prevent the establishment of a binational state, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said while recently in London.

Netanyahu, speaking to some 120 Members of Parliament and members of the House of Lords from parties across the political spectrum, said the solution to Israel's conflict with the Palestinians was "a demilitarized Palestinian state that recognizes a Jewish state, the nation state of the Jewish people."

He said he favored that solution because he opposed a binational state, and because he has fought in battle. "I've been to wars," he said, with words selected especially for the British parliamentarians because of the negative, warmongering image parts of the British public have toward him and Israel. "I have been personally wounded. I've lost loved ones, and I've held a fellow soldier in my arms as he died when he was 18 years old, and I was 18," he said. "Peace is infinitely preferable, so the notion that the people of Israel, or that I, prefer conflict to peace, or that we are not ready to take the steps for peace, are absurd."

Netanyahu met with the members of British-Israeli Friendship Parliamentary Associations after meeting with Prime Minister David Cameron, [photo] during which the Palestinian issue was one of the central topics of discussion. In remarks alongside Cameron before that session, Netanyahu announced again his willingness to open direct talks with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. He expounded on this at his meeting with the members of Parliament. But, he said, the other side is unwilling and is placing precondition obstacles in the path toward talks, something he said was being "obfuscated by the constant repetition of non-truths that Israel does not want peace, that I don't want peace."

Netanyahu acknowledged that Israel is facing a "public opinion problem" in Europe, but suggested that this may be changing as more people – faced with the reality of refugees fleeing militant Islam – "recognize that something vast and different is taking place."

Against forces of modernity epitomized by the innovation and technology

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in both Israel and Britain, there is a countervailing force moving against progress. Netanyahu defined this force as the twin pillars of radical Shia Islam embodied by Iran, and radical Sunni extremism, incarnated by Islamic State. Characterizing this force as “early medieval,” he said “it is primitive, violent, unforgiving and very, very dangerous.

“Those suffering the worst blows are fellow Muslims,” he added. “And millions are fleeing their unbelievable savagery, and they are causing unbelievable suffering, and it is only the beginning. This is something we all have to cooperate to stop at the source.”

Netanyahu repeated something that he has mentioned a number of times in recent days, the need for collective action in Africa to “try to help shore up their economies and security capabilities against the Islamic terror movements.” The Islamic terrorist groups in Africa are “relatively weak today, but will get stronger tomorrow,” he said. “We are facing the prospective tragedy of failed states; we cannot have failed continents. The consequences would be felt everywhere, but especially here [in Europe].”

Netanyahu went to London for a two-day visit that followed a meeting a week previously in Italy with Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. He announced that he will be meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in October. [JPost]

Israel Starts Building Border Fence on Frontier With Jordan



Israel has begun building a fence along part of the country’s eastern border with Jordan as Syrian civil war refugees and other migrants flee their countries.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said : “We see today what happens when countries lose control of their borders.” He seemed to be referring to the massive influx of refugees from the war-torn Middle East and African migrants heading to Europe.

Netanyahu earlier bemoaned the “human tragedy” of Syria’s civil war and said Israel has aided its victims. However, he said Israel is too small to take them.

Israel already built fences along its border with Egypt to stop African migrants and in the Golan Heights bordering Syria.

Opposition leader Isaac Herzog said that Israel should take in a limited number of Syrian refugees.

[ABCNews]

Israeli UN Ambassador Prosor: Instead of Flying Palestinian flag, UN Can Wave White Flag in Surrender of Principles

The UN – with some EU countries in tow – would pass a resolution stating that the world is flat were such a resolution brought by the Palestinians, Israel’s UN ambassador Ron Prosor said recently. Prosor’s remarks came after the world body approved a resolution calling for the Palestinian flag to be hoisted along with the banners of the other nations that make up the world body.

The “State of Palestine” as well as the Vatican have the status of “non-member observer states” at the UN General Assembly, and up until now, only states with full member status had their flags flown there. Prosor, in his last speech to the UN General Assembly before returning to Israel after a four-year stint as ambassador, took aim at the world body, saying that rather than flying the Palestinian flag, it might as well just wave a “white flag” and surrender its principles. He argued that not only was the measure procedurally flawed, in that it was brought to a vote without the requisite debate and discussion, but it also allowed the Palestinians to manipulate the institution for its own public relations stunts.

“In my four years, I have seen hypocrisy, I have seen duplicity, and I have seen a triple standard -- one for democracies, one for dictatorships, and a special standard designed only for Israel,” Prosor said. “I thought I had seen everything,” he continued. “But I have to admit, this time, the Palestinians managed to take cynicism to a whole new level. The goal of this resolution is a photo op. The Palestinians want to bring together world dignitaries and the media to gather around and watch as [Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas] Abu Mazen raises a flag. They plan to use the prestige of the UN as a backdrop for this charade.” “No vote,” Prosor said, can turn “empty symbolic gestures into a state.”

Instead of playing along, he said, “the international community must make it clear to the Palestinians that the only way to achieve statehood is through direct negotiations. As long as the Palestinians believe they can achieve their political goals without making concessions, they will continue to avoid taking the difficult decisions needed for peace.”

Regarding an imaginary resolution brought by the Palestinians declaring the world flat, the EU would “probably try to reach a consensus to abstain on the vote,” Prosor said. “But some EU countries would consider it a matter of principle to declare that the world is, indeed, flat -- if this is how the Palestinians see it.” The EU’s vaunted consensus on foreign policy matters, he said only holds firm when “their consensus is against Israel.” But, he said, the principle of “maintaining a holy consensus cannot withstand Palestinian pressure.” [JPost]