



[United States "Prepared to Recognize" Israeli Annexation of Occupied West Bank and Jordan Valley](#)

The United States is “prepared to recognize” Israel’s annexation of much of the occupied West Bank, including the Jordan Valley, according to a State Department spokesperson. The move would be in accordance with President Trump’s widely-criticized Mideast Peace Plan, which the White House released back in January. Palestinians have emphatically rejected the Trump proposal, and the international community has long recognized that Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank are illegal under international law. The United Nations and the European Union have warned Israel against the annexation plans, with U.N. special Middle East envoy Nickolay Mladenov stating that it would be a “devastating blow” to the internationally-backed two-state solution.

Trump’s Mideast Peace Plan offered a green light to Israeli annexation of settlements in the occupied West Bank, and embattled Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said recently that he was confident the United States would give Israel the approval within two months to move ahead. According to the wording of the unity government deal between Netanyahu and rival Gantz, starting on July 1st, Netanyahu “will be able to bring the agreement reached with the United States on the application of sovereignty in the West Bank for the approval of the cabinet and/or the Knesset.” The Netanyahu-Gantz deal also states that any Israeli action would need the backing of the United States. Meanwhile, Palestinian leadership and international actors have strongly condemned the annexation plans. The European Union has said that it would be a violation of international law and force the bloc to “act accordingly.”