

Trump's Mideast envoy under fire at UN Security Council over international law on Palestinian issue



United Nations, July 25 (RHC)-- U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy faces strong criticism from members of the UN Security Council, including Washington's own allies, after he downplayed the world body's resolutions on the Middle East conflict and said the Israeli-Palestinian issue cannot be resolved by relying on "fictions" of global consensus.

Addressing a UNSC meeting in New York on Tuesday, Jason Greenblatt dismissed the notion that international law and UN resolutions must serve as the foundation of any solution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Greenblatt said the issue will not be settled by references to international law, which he called "inconclusive." The U.S. representative said: "A comprehensive and lasting peace will not be created by fiat of international law or by these heavily wordsmithed, unclear resolutions. The vision for peace that we

plan to present will not be ambiguous, unlike many resolutions that have passed in this chamber, referring to the so-called peace plan Washington had been developing without Palestine's consent to end the conflict.

Greenblatt also noted that the upcoming plan which Trump himself calls the "deal of the century" would not be based on "fictions of international consensus" as it is often "nothing more than a mask for inaction."

His controversial comments against international law triggered strong rebuttals from the UNSC's four other permanent members, namely France, Britain, Germany and Russia.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas says the so-called deal of the century will not succeed just like the US-backed Bahrain summit. Security Council members, in response, underlined the need for respecting international law and UN resolutions in efforts to resolve the Palestine issue.

Germany's UN Ambassador Christoph Heusgen stressed that UNSC resolutions are binding under international law, saying, "For us, international law is not menu a la carte." For us, international law is relevant; international law is not futile," he said. "We believe in the force of international law; we do not believe in the force of the strongest."

British representative Karen Pierce also reminded all countries that they "have a responsibility" to implement UNSC resolutions. Similarly, Russia's UN envoy challenged Greenblatt's assertions.

"This international consensus is international law, because Security Council resolutions are international law they merely need to be complied with," Vassily Nebenzia said. "The matter lies not with a lack of international consensus; rather the matter has to do with the fact that there is utter disregard for this internationally-acknowledged consensus by the United States at present."

Moreover, French UN Ambassador Nicolas de Riviere emphasized that Paris would support any peace effort "so long as this aligns with the approach that we have set out together, so long as this adheres to international law, specifically all resolutions of the Security Council."

Washington's Middle East envoy, Jeffery Greenblatt, has worked with Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, on the U.S. president's highly-contentious "peace" deal, which the Palestinians have already dismissed "the slap of the century."

The economic section of Trump's proposal was released during a Washington-sponsored conference in Manama, Bahrain, on June 25th and 26th, despite a Palestinian boycott of the event. Critics say Washington is offering financial rewards for Palestinians to accept the Israeli occupation. Palestine, similarly, called that a "humiliating blackmail."

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