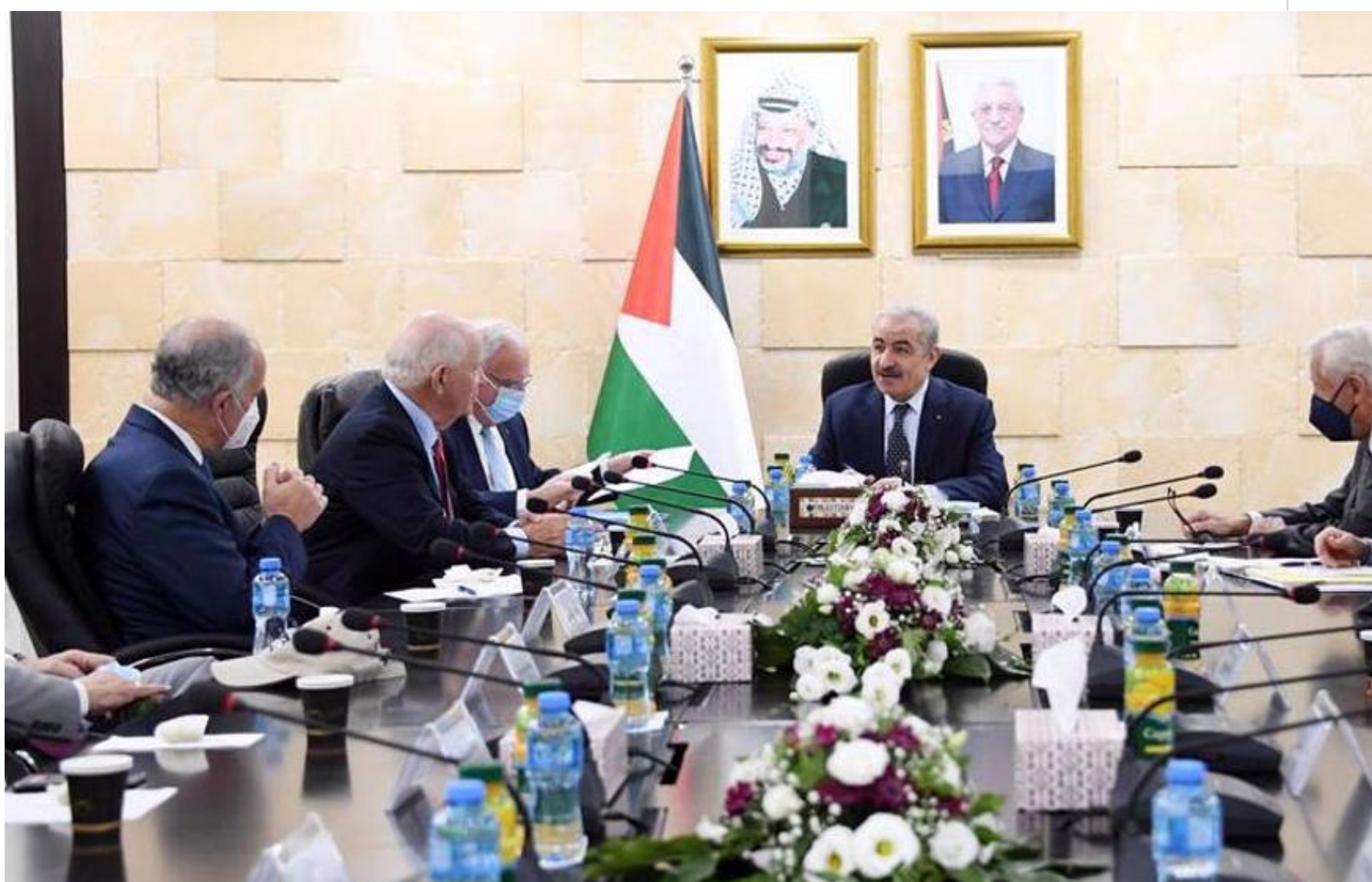


Palestinian prime minister calls on U.S. Congress to recognize State of Palestine



Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh (C) meets with a visiting delegation of US congressmen (L) at his office in the central occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, on November 9, 2021. (Photo by Palestinian Wafa news agency)

Ramallah, November 9 (RHC)-- Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh has called on the U.S. Congress to recognize an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, urging Washington to amend laws and regulations that target the Palestinian Authority (PA) as well as the

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

During a meeting with a visiting delegation of U.S. congressional representatives at his office in the central occupied West Bank city of Ramallah on Monday, Shtayyeh discussed the so-called Middle East Peace Process between Palestinians and Israel, amid the Tel Aviv regime's attempts to wreck prospects for the purported two-state solution through occupation and violation of Palestinians' rights.

He also asked the Biden administration to honor pledges it made to Palestinians, among them the reopening of the United States consulate in occupied East al-Quds (Jerusalem). Palestine says Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett's stances on settlements expansion and the US consulate in al-Quds are a critical test for the Biden administration.

Shtayyeh then called upon the U.S. and other Western countries to stop Israel from jeopardizing the Middle East region's future by insisting on its colonial policies and violations of human rights.

"How can we continue to talk about the [so-called] two-state solution when there are 720,000 settlers on the lands of the Palestinian state, and the settlement program is continuing?" he asked. "There are 62% of the Palestinian lands under the direct control of Israel, and it deals with it as a geographical reservoir for settlement expansion," Shtayyeh noted.

The Palestinian prime minister also demanded pressure on the Israeli regime in order to let the PA hold general elections across Palestinian territories, including East al-Quds.

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