

U.S. Secretary of State Consoles Israeli Prime Minister on Flight Bans



Washington, July 23 (RHC)-- U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has tried to calm down Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on American ban on flights to Israel, saying it is just due to safety concerns.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, the FAA, banned all American aircraft from flying to Tel Aviv for at least 24 hours after a rocket attack took place near Ben Gurion International Airport on Tuesday.

According to State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki, Kerry told Netanyahu by telephone later in the day that the FAA would review the order within a day.

Earlier, Delta Air Lines, American Airlines Group Inc. and United Continental Holdings Inc. said they were canceling flights to Israel. And a Delta Boeing 747 en route from New York to Tel Aviv turned around and flew to Paris instead.

In addition, United Airlines suspended service between the U.S. and Israel indefinitely. United said it was suspending its two daily Tel Aviv flights, adding one of its planes took off from the airport in Tel Aviv earlier on Tuesday but a second was still on the ground there.

Germany's Lufthansa canceled flights to Tel Aviv for 36 hours; Air France, Netherlands' KLM and Air Canada followed suit and also canceled their flights until further notice.

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