

Abbas: Palestine to present draft resolution for UN bid on Monday



Ramallah, Dec 29, (RHC) -- Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday night informed U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that the Palestinians intend to present a draft resolution to the UN Security Council on Monday.

The draft resolution calls on the Security Council to support setting up a timetable for a gradual ending of the Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian territories within three years until 2017.

The resolution also calls for a one-year direct negotiations with Israel that end up with a permanent agreement on establishing a Palestinian state on the territories Israel occupied in 1967 with east Jerusalem as its capital.

Earlier on Sunday, chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told Xinhua that he expects the Security Council will convene either on Tuesday or Wednesday to vote for the Arab-backed draft resolution.

Jordan, which is a non-permanent Security Council member, will present the Palestinian draft resolution for voting. The Palestinians are concerned that the resolution may not get the consensus of at least nine council states members.

Meanwhile, a well-informed official closed to Abbas spoke on condition of anonymity that Kerry exerted heavy pressure on Abbas over the phone to postpone the bid until after March elections in Israel.

The official said that Kerry hinted there will be economic sanctions imposed on the Palestinians and that the U.S. would veto the draft resolution in case it gains the nine Security Council votes.

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