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Gantz: Time is not right for Iran concessions

The IDF's top officer warned leading U.S. lawmakers and defense strategists against making concessions to Iran in exchange for a nuclear deal during an evening event at the Israeli Embassy Wednesday. Lt-Gen. Benny Gantz, IDF chief of general staff, came to Washington for a farewell visit in advance of leaving his position, and delivered a wide overview of his opinions on Israel's security position. "Iran is currently under major pressure," Gantz said, warning that "it is not time for concessions for them." The general said he hoped that an agreement will be achieved without the use of force, but "the results should be the right ones." Michele Flournoy, the former undersecretary of defense for policy—the third-ranking official in the Department of Defense—spoke Gantz's praises while reaffirming American support for Israel's quantitative military edge. "At the heart of the very special relationship is the United States unshakeable commitment to the security of the state of Israel," she continued, emphasizing the bipartisan commitment in Washington to maintaining Israel's security.