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Netanyahu: Abbas's speech deceitful, encourages incitement

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' speech Wednesday to the UN General Assembly was dishonest and accused him of having no intention of making peace with Israel, The Times of Israel reported. "[Abbas's] speech is deceitful and encourages incitement and disaster in the Middle East," Netanyahu said in a statement shortly after Abbas declared to the U.N. that the PA was no longer committed to prior agreements with Israel. Netanyahu rejected Abbas's claims that the recent actions of Israeli security forces at Jerusalem's Temple Mount constituted an attempt to change the delicate status quo of the site, revered by both Jews and Muslims. "Unlike the Palestinians, Israel strictly adheres to the status quo on the Temple Mount, and is committed to continuing to do so in accordance with the agreements between Israel and Jordan and the Waqf," Netanyahu said in his response. The prime minister urged Abbas to "act responsibly" and accept his offer from earlier in September to resume direct negotiations without preconditions.