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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Criticizes International Peace Conference

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday criticized an international peace conference in Paris slated for Friday, charging that it could harm prospects for peace and “radicalize Palestinian demands.” According to The Times of Israel, Netanyahu said, “The way to peace doesn’t go through international conferences that try to force an arrangement [on the sides], radicalize Palestinian demands and thus push peace farther away...The path to peace passes through direct negotiations, without preconditions by the sides. That’s how it was when we achieved peace with Jordan and also with Egypt, and that’s how it has to be with the Palestinians.” Addressing representatives of countries planning to attend the French-sponsored summit, to which neither Israeli nor Palestinian representatives have been invited, Netanyahu called on them to join his call for direct talks.

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