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Abbas speech condemned across Israeli political spectrum

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas was condemned by Israeli politicians across the political spectrum on Monday for his speech on Sunday in which he denied the Jewish connection to Israel and rejected any negotiations as long as Donald Trump is U.S. president. According to a report by The Jerusalem Post, Bayit Yehudi chairman Naftali Bennett said the time had come for Israel to prepare for the post-Abbas era and decide what is good for the country, which he said was applying sovereignty in Judea and Samaria. "Abbas is drifting away from the world, along with the idea of a Palestinian state," Bennett said. "His behavior indicates that he has lost power and his connection to reality." Former defense minister Moshe Ya'alon said Abbas confirmed in his speech the suspicions that his goal was not territorial compromise but renouncing the right of the Jewish people to a state in the land of Israel. Regional Cooperation Minister Tzachi Hanegbi said Abbas' incitement against Israel and the U.S. was extremely dangerous and should be condemned by anyone interested in peaceful coexistence. Zionist Union chairman Avi Gabbay told his faction Abbas' statements were "grave lies full of antisemitism." But "the Zionist dream is not to follow what others say about us but to do what is in Israel's best interest," which he said was separating from Palestinians.