

### 'Unprecedented' US-Israeli-Russian security meeting to be held in Jerusalem

The three countries' national security advisers will discuss regional security issues with a focus on Iran's entrenchment in Syria. PM Netanyahu: "A meeting like this has never taken place before in Israel. Never."

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### 'Unprecedented' US-Israeli-Russian security meeting to be held in Jerusalem

U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton with Israeli National Security Adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat at the White House on April 15, 2019 | Photo: Twitter/John Bolton

Jerusalem will host top security officials from the United States, Israel and Russia in June to discuss "regional security issues," according to a White House announcement on Wednesday.

"U.S. National Security Advisor Ambassador John Bolton, Israeli National Security Adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat and Russian Secretary of the Security Council Nikolay Patrushev will meet in Jerusalem, to discuss regional security issues," the White House press secretary said in a statement.

The meeting is expected to center around the security threat to Israel posed by Iranian entrenchment in Syria close to Israel's border and will also address the expected withdrawal of U.S. troops from the war-torn country.

In response to the announcement, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "I proposed to [U.S. President Donald] Trump and [Russian President Vladimir] Putin to form a U.S.-Russia-Israel trilateral committee that would meet in Jerusalem to discuss the security situation in the Middle East and both of them agreed. This is unprecedented. A meeting like this has never taken place before in Israel. Never."

Netanyahu proposed to Trump and Putin to form a U.S.-Russia-Israel trilateral committee

### Israelis disgruntled with additional election

Public upset that country will have another election, citing high cost of endeavor, frustrated with politicians.

by Reuters , Israel Hayom Staff Published on 2019-05-30 20:42 Last modified: 2019-05-31 07:55

The main players in Israel's next election, the second this year

A general view shows the plenum during the swearing-in ceremony of the 20th Knesset, the new Israeli parliament, in Jerusalem. | Photo: Heidi Levine/Reuters

Lawmakers voted to dissolve parliament on Thursday, paving the way for a new election after veteran Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to form a coalition government before a midnight deadline.

Netanyahu preferred a new ballot, set for Sept. 17, to the alternative, under which Israeli President Reuven Rivlin could have asked another politician to try and form a ruling coalition.

The election, Israel's second this year after an April 9 poll means unprecedented upheaval for the country.

"We will win," Netanyahu, head of the Likud Party, vowed after parliament voted for a fresh election when the deadline expired for him to assemble his fifth government.

The turmoil arose – officially, at least – from a feud over military conscription between Netanyahu's presumed allies: ex-defense minister Avigdor Lieberman and ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties.

Those parties want young religious scholars exempted, en masse from mandatory national service. But Lieberman and many other Israelis say they should share the burden.

Faced with the prospect of having to step aside at the end of a 42-day period to put together a government, Netanyahu instead drummed up votes to dissolve the Knesset, accusing Lieberman of aiming to topple him. Lieberman denied the allegation.

The new election, with coalition-building that could stretch into November, could further delay U.S. efforts to press ahead with President Donald Trump's forthcoming "deal of the century."

Even before it has been announced, Palestinians have spurned the plan.

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Photo: Amit Shaabi

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Photo: Amit Shaabi

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### Netanyahu shows off Trump's map of Israel with Golan Heights

With a prospect of an unprecedented second election campaign in the same year looming, the prime minister attempts to play down the political turmoil by turning the public's attention to foreign policy; Trump says he feels 'very badly' Netanyahu failed to form government

Associated Press|Published: 05.30.19 , 21:49

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says U.S. President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner has gifted him an official State Department map, updated to incorporate the long-disputed Golan Heights as part of Israel.

### Prospective Treaty map incorporates Golan Heights as part of Israel

Speaking at a news conference in Jerusalem on Thursday, Netanyahu addressed a nation rattled by the prospect of an unprecedented second election campaign in the same year, after the newly re-elected Netanyahu failed to form a governing coalition.

In a bid to play down the political chaos and focus public attention on his foreign policy prowess - in particular his close friendship with Trump - Netanyahu whipped out Kushner's map, on which President Trump had scribbled, "Nice."

"This map had not been updated since the Six Day War," said Netanyahu, referring to the 1967 Middle East war, after which Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria. "Well, it has been updated, it just got an update. ... That is to say, there are very important developments here."

He pointed to a note scribbled on the map, which he called President Trump's personal handiwork. "Here is the signature of Trump, and he writes 'nice.' I say, 'very nice!'"

Kushner met with Netanyahu earlier on Thursday to push the Trump administration's long-awaited plan for Mideast peace, just as Israel was thrust into the political tumult. Kushner and U.S. special envoy Jason Greenblatt stopped in Israel as part of a Middle East tour to rally support for the administration's upcoming economic conference in Bahrain, which the White House bills as the first portion of its peace plan.

The U.S. is hoping to draw Arab states with deep pockets to participate in the workshop, which envisions large-scale infrastructure work and investment in the Palestinian territories.

In brief joint remarks, Kushner touted American-Israeli cooperation, saying, "it's never been stronger and we're very excited about all the potential that lies ahead for Israel ... and for the whole region."

Netanyahu attempted to play down concerns that the Israeli parliament's dramatic dissolution would further postpone the U.S. peace plan rollout. "You know, we had a little event last night," he said. "That's not going to stop us."

At the White House, President Trump, a close ally of Netanyahu, weighed in expressing dismay at the prime minister's failure to form a governing coalition. Calling Netanyahu a "great guy," Trump said he feels "very badly" that the country has to face another election because there is "enough turmoil" in the region.



Israel's New **Election Will Delay Release of Trump's Peace Plan**, PA Officials Believe  
Nevertheless, officials are concerned that the Trump administration will continue to take steps that pave the way for the plan without unveiling details

Jack Khoury May 31, 2019 4:25 AM

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If Netanyahu is gone any other Israeli PM will do exactly what Bibi would have done. Full support of and cooperation of the Trump peace plan by Israeli is expected and will be provided no matter who PM is.

**Israeli Settlers 'Upgrade' West Bank Springs to Usurp Palestinian Land**

Settler councils grab more and more privately held territory through investment in infrastructure as the Civil Administration looks the other way

Yotam Berger **May 31, 2019** 2:22 PM

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Which smart Israeli neo-Goebbels dreamt up the word "settler", with its benign connotations? They're land-grabbers, and that's what they should be called.

The same shyster who coined the word "fence". I've got a fence in my garden. It's not made from concrete, or 10 metres high. And it's not patrolled by swarthy thugs with machine guns.

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Nir Hasson May 31, 2019 2:21 AM

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