



Fact Sheet: 40 Years of US Positions Toward Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Administration	White House Statements	UN Resolutions	Congressional Actions
<p>Donald Trump (2017 - present)</p>	<p>2017: President Trump told Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu that he would like to see Israel "hold back on settlements."</p> <p>2017: Trump said settlements "don't help the peace process," and that "every time you take land for settlements, there is less land left." He also said "I am not somebody that believes that going forward with settlements is a good thing for peace."</p> <p>2017: WH said "While we don't believe the existence of settlements is an impediment to peace, the construction of new settlements or the expansion of existing settlements... may not be helpful in achieving that goal."</p>		<p>2017: US House of Representatives passed a resolution calling for the repeal of UNSCR 2334 which condemns Israeli settlements.</p> <p>2017: 22 Senators introduced resolution condemning UNSCR 2334 which condemns Israeli settlements.</p>
<p>Barack Obama (2009 - 2017)</p>	<p>2016: US Secretary of State John Kerry calls Israeli settlements a threat to peace.</p> <p>2014: State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki said it would be "unfortunate" if Israeli authorities continued construction in East Jerusalem despite US objections.</p> <p>2014: State Department spokesperson Edgar Vazquez noted settlement activity is "counterproductive" to two-state outcome.</p>	<p>2016: UNSCR 2334 was adopted condemning Israeli settlements as illegal and violation of international law, and demanding immediate and complete cessation of settlement activities as essential for the two-state solution (votes: 14-1, US abstained).</p> <p>2015: UNGA resolution 70/89 was adopted noting the illegal status of settlements under international law, and demanding ceasing settlement activity (votes: 161-7-8, US voted against).</p>	<p>2016: US House of Representatives introduced a bill that US should continue to exercise its veto in the UNSC on resolutions regarding Israel-Palestine.</p> <p>2016: US House of Representatives introduced a bill to clarify section 304 of the Tariff Act of 1930, to list goods produced in Israeli settlements as "Made in Israel."</p>



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<p>Barack Obama (2009 - 2017)</p>	<p>2014: Kerry blamed the collapse of peace talks on Israel’s announcement of the construction of 700 new settlement units.</p> <p>2013: "The position of the United States is that we consider... the settlements to be illegitimate," said John Kerry.</p> <p>2011: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called Israeli settlements "illegitimate" shortly before the US vetoed a UNSC resolution condemning them.</p> <p>2009: WH spokesperson Robert Gibbs expressed "dismay" at Jerusalem Planning Committee's decision to expand Gilo settlement, saying "these actions make it more difficult" for our efforts to succeed."</p> <p>2009: In his Cairo speech, President Obama said the US "does not accept the legitimacy of continued Israeli settlements."</p>	<p>2014: UNGA resolution 69/93 was adopted demanding that Israel, the occupying power, cease all its settlement activities and measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (votes: 155-8-11, US voted against).</p> <p>2011: UNSC condemned Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 1967 as illegal (votes: 14-1, US vetoed)</p> <p>2009-2014: Several UNGA resolutions (64/93, 65/104, 66/78, 67/120, 68/82, 69/92) reaffirmed that Israeli settlements are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development, and/or called for cessation of Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (US voted against).</p>	<p>2015: H.Res.126 (114th Congress) called on Israel to cease support for and prevent further settlement expansion.</p> <p>2013: H.Res.238 (113th Congress) called on the Israeli Government to cease support for and prevent further settlement expansion in the Occupied Territories.</p>
<p>George W. Bush (2001 - 2009)</p>	<p>2005: On two occasions President Bush said "Israel must remove unauthorized posts and stop settlement expansion" and confirmed that building more settlements would impede the peace process.</p>	<p>2003: UNSCR 1515 adopted unanimously endorsing "Roadmap for Peace" to provide structured guidance toward the creation of a two-state system, including instructions for full settlement freeze (votes: 15-0, US voted for).</p> <p>2001-2008: UNGA resolutions (ES 10/9, 56/61, 57/126, 58/98, 59/123, 60/106, 61/118, 62/108, 63/97) reaffirmed Israeli settlements as illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development, and/or demanded cessation of settlement activities (US voted against).</p>	



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<p>Bill Clinton (1993 - 2001)</p>	<p>2001: In his farewell address to the Middle East President Clinton said “[Israel] must understand that... the settlement enterprise and building bypass roads in what... will one day be part of [Palestine] is inconsistent with Oslo.”</p> <p>2000: “Clinton Parameters”: contiguous Palestinian state and Palestinian control over Arab sections of Jerusalem; 80% of Israeli settlers, those living near 67 borders, remain; and Israeli control over Jewish sections of Jerusalem.</p>	<p>1997: UNSC resolution demanded Israel to cease construction of Har Homa settlement in East Jerusalem and cease all settlement activity in the occupied territories (votes: 13-1-1, US vetoed).</p> <p>1997: UNSC resolution called on Israel to refrain from settlement activity in the occupied territories (votes: 14-1, US vetoed).</p> <p>1993-2000: Several UNGA resolutions (48/212, 49/132, 50/129, 51/133, 52/66, 51/223, 54/78, ES 10/6, 55/132, ES 10/7) reaffirming Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development, and/or demanding cessation of settlement activities (US voted against).</p>	<p>1995: HR 3074 (104th Congress) amends the US-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act to provide the President with additional proclamation authority regarding articles of the West Bank or Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone. Resolution passed by Senate.</p>
<p>George H. W. Bush (1989 - 1993)</p>	<p>1992: President Bush told key Congressional leaders that "he could not accept their proposal for providing loan guarantees to Israel because it contained too many loopholes that would enable Israel to continue building settlements in the occupied territories."</p> <p>1990: President Bush confirmed US stance against settlements, saying "... the foreign policy of the US says we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem..."</p>	<p>1991-1992: UNGA resolutions (46/199 and 47/172) deplored settlements and recognized their adverse consequences (US voted against both).</p>	<p>1991: S.Con.Res 113 (102nd Congress), passed both chambers urging that "Jerusalem remain an undivided city in which the religious rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected."</p> <p>1990: H.Con.Res 240, passed House but not Senate, expressed that the US should support a unified Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.</p>



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<p>Ronald Reagan (1981 - 1989)</p>	<p>1982: President Reagan was softer on settlements: hesitated to declare them illegal, opposed dismantling existing ones, but supported freezing more construction.</p> <p>Announcing his "Reagan Plan" of 1982, Reagan said that the US "will not support the use of more land for the purpose of settlements during the transition period," and called for freezing settlement activity.</p>	<p>1988: UNSCR 608 passed reaffirming UNSCR 607 and calling on Israel to rescind order to deport Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories (US abstained).</p> <p>1988: UNSCR 607 was adopted unanimously reaffirming the Geneva Conventions and demanding that Israel, as the occupying power, cease deporting Palestinians from the occupied territories.</p> <p>1983: UNSC resolution condemned Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as an obstacle to peace (votes: 13-1-1, US vetoed).</p>	
<p>Jimmy Carter (1977 - 1981)</p>	<p>1980: President Carter maintained that "Our position on the settlements is very clear. We do not think they are legal."</p> <p>1976: US Ambassador to the UN William Scranton stated before the Security Council "the presence of [Israeli] settlements is seen by my Government as an obstacle to the success of the negotiations for a just and final peace between Israel and its neighbors."</p>	<p>1980: UNSCR 465 passed unanimously deploring Israel's settlement program and asked members not to assist Israel with this program. US Ambassador to UN called the resolution a recommendation and non-binding. The similar resolution UNSCR 471 also passed (votes: 15-0, US abstained).</p> <p>1979: UNSCR 452 stated the illegality of Israeli settlements (votes: 14-0, US abstained).</p> <p>1979: UNSCR 446 determined that Israeli settlements are a "serious obstruction to peace," and called on Israel to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention (votes: 12-0, US abstained).</p>	