

[REDACTED]
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: President-elect Trump press conference 7 January
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts, USA Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

Annotations: **Resent with updated distro**
Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

11. In circling a question on his approach to the situation in Gaza and the plight of the Hamas hostages from the 7 October 2023 attack, Trump called on his appointee for the role of Middle East Envoy, billionaire New York real estate tycoon Steve Witkoff, to the podium to speak. Witkoff said the negotiations were going well and several times cited the "President" was involved, s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii) After brief words from Witkoff, Trump repeated his s 33(a)(iii) that "all hell would break out in the Middle East" if the hostages were not released by Hamas before his inauguration. s 47C, s 47E(d) He said "it will not be good for Hamas, and it will not be good, frankly, for anyone.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: President Biden's foreign policy achievements
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts, USA Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

11. Biden and Sullivan both announced the Administration was pressing hard for a deal between Israel and Hamas that would see a timed ceasefire and free the hostages held by Hamas. Sullivan said, "we are close to a deal, and it can get done this week", and added "I'm not making a promise or a prediction, but it is there for the taking and we are going to work to make it happen". Sullivan said officials from both the Biden and Trump administrations were at the negotiating table in Qatar for a ceasefire and hostage release deal. He said, "President Biden gave us direction to work closely with the incoming team so that there were not different messages being sent". Sullivan declined to comment on Trump's threats to Hamas but offered that the two sides agreed about the most important thing- getting a deal done. He added "having unity of message on that is a good thing, and we have closely coordinated with the incoming team to this effect."

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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UNOFFICIAL

TRANSCRIPT

January 13, 2025

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN DELIVERS A FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Pages 9-12 redacted under s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

And on the war between Israel and Hamas, we're in the brink of a proposal that I laid out in detail months ago finally coming to fruition. I have learned in many years of public service to never, never, never, ever give up.

So I spoke to the Prime Minister of Israel yesterday. I spoke to the Emir of Qatar today. And I look forward to speaking with President Sisi soon. We're pressing hard to close this. The deal we have structured (ph) would free the hostages, halt the fighting, provide security to Israel, and it will allow us to significantly surge humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians who've suffered terribly in this war that Hamas started. They've been through hell. So many innocent people have been killed. So many communities have been destroyed.

The Palestinian people deserve peace and the right to determine their own futures. Israel deserves peace and real security. And the hostages and their families deserve to be reunited. And so we're working urgently to close this deal.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Congress: Secretary of State Rubio confirmation hearing
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : EU Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

6. The hearing coincided with the announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, including provisions for hostage releases. Risch seized the opportunity to stress the importance of unwavering US support for Israel and called for a robust strategy to counter Iran's influence in the region. Meanwhile, Democratic senators pressed for greater attention to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Although a small group of protesters briefly interrupted proceedings, the disruptions were minimal, and the hearing continued as planned.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 47E(d)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Incoming Secretary of State Rubio - confirmation hearing comments
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Gaza: Ceasefire announcement
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

On 15 January President Biden announced a ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas based on the three-phased plan he outlined last May. Biden praised the work of his national security team and acknowledged they had been working closely with representatives of the Trump transition team. The White House was confident disputes in Israel's cabinet would not hold up the deal. President-elect Trump claimed credit for the outcome.

On 15 January President Biden, flanked by Vice President Harris and Secretary of State Blinken, addressed the nation to announce a ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas.

2. Biden said the deal covered the three phases he outlined in his May 2024 ceasefire plan s 22(1)(a)(ii) .

3. Biden said he was "deeply satisfied" this day had come for the sake of the "innocent people in Gaza who suffered unimaginable devastation because of the war" and had "gone through hell". The people of Gaza could recover, rebuild and look to a future without Hamas in power.

4. Biden said the deal was reached because of the pressure Israel built on Hamas, backed by the US. He praised the "extraordinary team" of US diplomats, led by Blinken, who helped get the agreement done. In a statement announcing the agreement, Biden said it was the result "of dogged and painstaking American diplomacy".

5. In response to 16 January media reports that disputes within Israel's cabinet were holding up completion of the deal, White House spokesperson John Kirby told NBC the Administration was "confident that we'll be able to solve these last minute issues and get it moving". Blinken said at a press briefing on 16 January that he expected the ceasefire agreement to go into effect on Sunday.

The Trump Factor

6. When asked by a reporter if he or Trump deserved the credit for the deal, Biden said "Is that a joke?" However, during his address, Biden did acknowledge his Administration and the incoming Trump team had been "speaking as one" during this latest round of negotiations.

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

This sentiment was echoed by Qatari Prime Minister Al Thani who, when announcing the ceasefire, said that “two US administrations working together...led to this moment.”

7. In early January, Trump dispatched his incoming Middle East envoy, Steve Witkoff, to Doha to work with Biden's top Middle East adviser Brett McGurk to push for a deal. Trump repeatedly threatened severe consequences unless Hamas released the hostages before his inauguration s 22(1)(a)(ii). Biden said the deal would have to be implemented by the incoming administration and his national security team would coordinate closely with the Trump team “to make sure we're all speaking with the same voice, cause that's what American presidents do”.

8. s 33(a)(iii), s 47C, s 47E(d), s 33(a)(iii)

. In an interview on Fox News, Trump's incoming National Security Advisor Mike Waltz said “the entire world recognises this is the Trump effect”.

9. Local media reported that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu called Trump first and thanked him for his help in getting the deal. He then called to thank Biden.

s 47E(d)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Interview with incoming National Security Advisor
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts, USA Posts
Ministers: Foreign Minister
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
The cable has the following attachment/s -
05808773.docx
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

Incoming NSA Mike Waltz said today “the Trump effect” delivered the Israel/Hamas ceasefire deal and it would be a “Reagan moment” for the incoming president. s 33(a)(iii)

. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

2. Waltz said the Israel/Hamas deal “would have never happened” without Trump winning the election, while acknowledging efforts by the Biden Administration, he credited the “Trump effect”. The Truth Trump had posted “put Hamas on notice” that there would be “consequences” if they didn’t release the American hostages. Waltz said, “if Hamas reneges on this deal, if Hamas backs out, moves the goalposts...we will support Israel in doing what it has to do, number one and, number two, Hamas will never govern Gaza”. Waltz compared the situation to the 1979 Iran hostage crisis, he said, “now we are going to have a Reagan moment... President Trump being sworn in as hostages come out alive”.

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

10. Waltz said Iran was “on its back foot thanks to the leadership of BiBi Netanyahu and the Israelis”. He spoke s 47C, s 47E(d) on Israeli achievements in Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran. Waltz said, “that has now led to a real moment of opportunity in Lebanon... the fall of Assad and his brutal dictatorship... Hamas being completely isolated... and Iran's air defenses ... destroyed”. Waltz said now was the moment “to make those key decisions, and we'll be doing that over the next month”.

s 47E(d)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

Rep. Mike Waltz (R-Fla.), incoming national security adviser, is interviewed on Face the Nation, sked FINAL

January 19, 2025 12:46PM ET

TRANSCRIPT

January 19, 2025

NEWS PROGRAM

REP. MIKE WALTZ (R-FLA.), INCOMING NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, IS
INTERVIEWED ON FACE THE NATION

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SPEAKERS:

REP. MIKE WALTZ (R-FLA.), INCOMING NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER

MARGARET BRENNAN, HOST FACE THE NATION

MARGARET BRENNAN: We are joined now by Congressman Mike Waltz. He's the
incoming national security adviser to president-elect Donald Trump.

Good to have you here.

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE WALTZ (R-Florida) (Incoming U.S. National Security Adviser):
Good to be with you. Thanks.

MARGARET BRENNAN: I understand, just yesterday, you were meeting with the families
of some of the hostages being held in Gaza, at least three Americans assessed to still be
alive and in captivity.

One of them might not be released until phase two, when male soldiers are released and Israeli troops withdraw. Will the Trump team see this through to completion?

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE WALTZ: Well, remember, the terms of the deal that we finally have come to was inherited in many ways from the Biden administration.

So it was actually the Biden negotiators that were at the table, and the -- the other side was dealing with them, but kind of looking to us, particularly Steve Witkoff, President Trump's Middle East envoy.

And one of the things that we inherited was this framework of women, the elderly and the sick coming out first. The -- one of the Americans is an Israeli soldier. He -- that means he'll come out in the second phase, but we will get him out, period.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Edan Alexander.

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE WALTZ: And I -- Edan Alexander.

And I am convinced, Margaret, that this deal would have never happened had President Trump not been elected, the Trump effect, so to speak. And the families believe that. They were effusive in their thanks for him and the -- the TRUTH that he put out that put Hamas on notice that there will be consequences if they don't let our people go.

MARGARET BRENNAN: There is also obviously the party Israel here...

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE WALTZ: Yes.

MARGARET BRENNAN: ... that feels some pressure to get this done. One far right member of the Netanyahu government resigned. Another this morning said he will bring down the Netanyahu government if it does not return to fighting in a way that leads Israel to taking over the entire Gaza Strip.

Does Mr. Trump support annexation of the West Bank and Gaza?

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE WALTZ: Well -- excuse me -- very different things.

What we're talking about here is making sure that Hamas is destroyed as a terrorist organization. Hamas is no different than ISIS or al Qaeda or any of the worst of the worst that has so brutalized the Middle East over the years.

And what we have made clear to Bibi Netanyahu, to his government -- and I want the Israeli people to hear me loud and clear -- if Hamas reneges on this deal, if Hamas backs out, moves the goalposts, what have you, we will support Israel in doing what it has to do, number one, and, number two, Hamas will never govern Gaza.

That is completely unacceptable, because they've made their intention clear, which is to destroy Israel and to have future October 7's. So I understand the concern. But, at the end

of the day, Prime Minister Netanyahu supported this deal. He agreed we needed to get those hostages out.

And within the next 24 hours, we will see -- we will see three women coming out alive and hugging their families. And had we not entered this, these people would have died, Margaret. I mean, these conditions that they were in -- by the way, they've been held now longer than the hostages in 1979 in the Iranian hostage crisis.

MARGARET BRENNAN: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE WALTZ: They were being brutalized, raped, tortured. It was horrific.

But now we're going to have a Reagan moment. We are going to have President Trump being sworn in as hostages are coming out alive, and that's something we should all celebrate.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Political: Trump promises big first hundred days at pre-Inauguration rally

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: Canberra

Cc: RR : Indo-Pacific Posts

From: Washington

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

2. The President-elect's envoy for the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, shared news of the first three hostages released under the Gaza ceasefire and hostage release agreement. Witkoff spoke about a region with "extraordinary potential" and said the Abraham Accords were a blueprint for the future. Witkoff, s 33(a)(iii), s 47C, s 47E(d), credited the President-elect for the deal s 33(a)(iii), s 47C, s 47E(d)). Witkoff said his work would be about creating a legacy of hope, opportunity and progress and said Trump was a leader who believed peace was the expectation.

3. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 27 January 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References:
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

24. On 25 January, President Trump said he spoke with Jordan's King Abdullah II about "cleaning out" Gaza and urged Jordan and Egypt to "take on" about "a million and a half" refugees from the territory. On 26 January, Jordan's Foreign Minister said his country's opposition to the Gaza refugee transfer plan floated by Trump is "firm and unwavering". Separately, Egypt's Foreign Ministry reiterated its position against "the displacement of Palestinians from their land through forced eviction".

25. On 25 January, Trump released a [statement](#) on the release of four more Israeli hostages under the Gaza ceasefire deal.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)



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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 29 January 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

7. Trump invited Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to the White House on 4 February, making Netanyahu the first foreign leader to visit since the Inauguration. Talks are expected to cover the unfolding Gaza cease-fire and hostage deal. Netanyahu will meet with Middle East Envoy Steven Witkoff today in Tel Aviv.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 3 February 2025

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: Canberra

Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts

From: Washington

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

8. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will discuss the second phase of the Gaza cease-fire and hostage deal in a meeting today with Trump's Middle East Envoy Steve Witkoff. Netanyahu will meet with Trump tomorrow.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 4 February 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

President Trump is meeting with Israeli PM Netanyahu and will sign Executive Orders related to the Middle East and antisemitism. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments:

Executive events and statements

2. President Trump will meet Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu today in the Oval Office. It will be his first bilateral meeting with a foreign leader. Following the bilateral, they will hold a joint press conference (scheduled for EST 5.10pm) and then have dinner together in the State Dining Room. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

29. On 2 February, in response to comments by Trump last week, the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar, together with a senior Palestinian official [sent a joint letter to Secretary Rubio](#) opposing plans to displace Palestinians from Gaza and demanding Palestinian involvement in its reconstruction.

30. National Security Advisor Waltz and Middle East Envoy Witkoff addressed the situation in Gaza in a press gaggle today ahead of Trump's meeting with Netanyahu. They discussed the challenge of moving Palestinians back into such a devastated area and efforts to negotiate phase 2 of the cease-fire deal.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 5 February 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

During an official visit by Israeli PM Netanyahu, Trump said the US would “take over” Gaza, relocate Palestinians and turn it into an “unbelievable place”. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

4. In a joint press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on 4 February, Trump said the United States would “take over” Gaza and suggested that the nearly two-million-strong population of Palestinians in Gaza be permanently removed to other countries. Trump said Gaza “has been a symbol of death and destruction for so many decades... an unlucky place, for a long time”. Trump refused to rule out deploying US troops to remove the

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Palestinians – “we’re gonna take over that piece [Gaza] and we’re gonna develop it, create thousands and thousands of jobs”. Trump concluded on this issue by stating, “I envision world people living there [Gaza]; the world’s people; I think you’ll make that into an international, unbelievable place ... the Riviera of the Middle East”. As expected, Trumps comments are dominating today’s news cycle. s 33(a)(iii), s 47C, s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

35. On 5 February, Special Envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, supported Trump's Gaza proposal in an interview on Fox News – "Gaza today is uninhabitable and will probably be uninhabitable for at least the next 10–15 years; peace in the region means a better life for the Palestinians; a better life is not necessarily tied to the physical space that you're in today". In a statement on X last night, Rubio did not address Trump's comments directly - "Gaza MUST BE FREE from Hamas. As @POTUS shared today, the United States stands ready to lead and Make Gaza Beautiful Again. Our pursuit is one of lasting peace in the region for all people".

36. On 5 February, Speaker Johnson praised Trump's Gaza proposal and said House Republicans would "stand with" Trump on his initiative. Johnson said, "he's taking bold decisive action to try to ensure the peace of that region; it's a bold move, far bolder than what's been done before". Following the Trump-Netanyahu press conference yesterday, Senator Lindsey Graham (R – South Carolina) said "might be problematic" and Senator Josh Hoeven (R-North Dakota) doubted whether "it's the best use" of US resources". Democrats were less equivocal. [On X](#), Senator Chris Murphy (D-Connecticut) said "he's [Trump] totally lost it; a U.S. invasion of Gaza would lead to the slaughter of thousands of US troops and decades of war in the Middle East". Senator Ruben Gallego (D-Arizona) [said on X](#): "Trump wants to invade Panama, Greenland and now Gaza. Trump is a warmonger". Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-Michigan), who is Palestinian, [posted on X](#): "this president is openly calling for ethnic cleansing".

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 6 February 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References:
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

President Trump doubled down on his proposal for the United States to take over the Gaza Strip. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Pages 76-79 redacted under s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

In a post on Truth Social on 6 February, Trump doubled down on his proposal for the United States to take over the Gaza Strip, claiming Israel would hand the Strip over to the United States at the culmination of fighting, without the need for American troops to be involved.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

36. On 6 February, Trump via a post on Truth Social doubled down on his proposal for the United States to take over the Gaza Strip, stating: "The Gaza Strip would be turned over to the United States by Israel at the conclusion of fighting. The Palestinians, people like Chuck

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Schumer, would have already been resettled in far safer and more beautiful communities, with new and modern homes, in the region. They would actually have a chance to be happy, safe, and free. The U.S., working with great development teams from all over the World, would slowly and carefully begin the construction of what would become one of the greatest and most spectacular developments of its kind on Earth. No soldiers by the U.S. would be needed! Stability for the region would reign!!!”

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 7 February 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

plans for Gaza and said it had been very well received. Trump repeated his s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

5. At the joint press conference, Trump also said there had been “no deliberations” since he announced on Tuesday that the United States would seek to take over Gaza. He said his plan had been “very well received”. He repeated that Gaza would “be given to us by Israel” and doubled down on his proposal to permanently relocate Palestinians from the territory. Trump said, “we don’t want to see everybody move out and then move back in 10 years” and his plan “would lead to great stability in the area” for “very little money”. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Pages 85-89 redacted under s22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 10 February 2025

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: Canberra

Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts

From: Washington

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Over the weekend Trump further elaborated his Gaza plan to clarify that Palestinians would not be able to return to Gaza after being relocated elsewhere. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments:

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

6. During the interview, Trump was even more forward leaning on his Gaza proposal and said he was committed to “buying and owning Gaza”. He said, “think of it as a big real estate site and the United States is going to own it; and we’re going to slowly, very slowly, develop it; we’re going to bring stability to the Middle East”. When asked about Gaza’s current inhabitants, Trump said, “we’ll take care of the Palestinians, we’re going to make sure they live in harmony and peace, and they’re not murdered”. Asked if Palestinians could return under his plan, Trump said “no, they wouldn’t, because they’re going to have much better housing — in other words, I’m talking about building a permanent place for them”. Trump added, “I think I could make a deal” with Jordan and Egypt. Egypt announced Sunday it would host a summit of Arab leaders later in the month, amid alarm in the region over President Trump’s proposals regarding the future of Gaza. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Israel: Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit to Washington
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit to Washington was dominated by President Trump's surprising proposal for the US to "take over" Gaza. The Trump Administration made several key Israel-related announcements during the visit, such as stopping the funding of UNRWA, restoring maximum pressure on Iran, sanctioning the ICC and greenlighting \$8 billion in weapons sales. s 47C, s 47E(d)
s 33(a)(iii)

From 3–9 February 2025, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu visited the US for meetings with President Trump, Special Envoy for the Middle East Witkoff, Secretary of Defense Hegseth, a bipartisan group of Senators and House Speaker Johnson (s 22(1)(a)(ii)).

Trump meeting and press conference

2. Netanyahu met with Trump on 4 February. He was the first foreign leader to visit in Trump's second term. White House Press Secretary Leavitt said the President used the meeting to outline his commitment to eliminating Hamas and securing a lasting peace for the entire region, describing the bonds between the two nations as "unbreakable".
3. In the joint press conference following the bilateral meeting, Trump proposed that the United States "take over" Gaza, move the Palestinian people out, develop the land and turn it into the "Riveria of the Middle East". Trump said that without fresh thinking, history would keep repeating itself in Gaza and the cycle of death and destruction would continue. His proposal involved the US having a "long term ownership position" in the enclave, which would "create thousands and thousands of jobs" and bring "great stability". He repeated his idea of Palestinians moving out to countries in the region, explicitly listing Jordan and Egypt. Trump envisioned "the world's people" living in Gaza. When asked if the US would commit troops, Trump said "if it was necessary, we will do that".
4. Media noted Netanyahu appeared surprised by Trump's proposal. s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

[REDACTED]
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

5. Netanyahu s 47C, s 47E(d) described Trump as the “greatest friend Israel has ever had in the White House”. Netanyahu also praised Trump’s willingness to “think outside the box”.

s 33(a)(iii)

On 5 February, Secretary of State Rubio suggested the proposal would only require a temporary displacement to facilitate rebuilding, rather than a long-term US claim over the territory, as “obviously people are going to have to live somewhere while you’re rebuilding it”. Leavitt stressed that the US would not “pay for the rebuilding of Gaza” and would work with regional partners on this task. Leavitt also qualified military involvement, stating that “the President has not committed to putting boots on the ground”. On CBS, National Security Advisor Waltz said Trump’s proposal was designed to pressure neighbouring Arab nations to come up “with their own solutions”.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Announcements made during the visit

8. The Trump Administration made several key announcements related to the US-Israel relationship during Netanyahu’s visit. On 4 February, Trump signed an Executive Order (EO) stopping any funding to UNRWA and s 22(1)(a)(ii)

. s 33(a)(iii)

Further meetings

9. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

. Witkoff had just returned from a trip to the Middle East where he had been Trump’s representative in brokering ceasefire negotiations (s 22(1)(a)(ii) . Witkoff was the first US official to enter Gaza in 15 years.

10. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Trump doubles down on Gaza

13. Since the Netanyahu meeting, Trump has doubled down on his proposal for Gaza, which on 7 February he described as a “real estate transaction” between the US and Israel. In a 10 February interview with Fox News, Trump said Palestinians would not be allowed to return to the enclave, as they would “have much better housing” elsewhere. He also ^{s 33(a)(iii)} to cut aid to Jordan and Egypt if they refused his demand to permanently take in most Palestinians from Gaza.

Progress of the ceasefire

14. Trump’s surprising proposal for Gaza during his press conference with Netanyahu dominated the news cycle during the Prime Minister’s visit, burying any questions about the progress of the ceasefire and the transition to phase two. When asked about the ceasefire deal at the press conference, Trump ^{s 33(a)(iii), s 47C, s} said the US “hope it holds”. On 10 February, Trump weighed in on the ceasefire to say that if Hamas did not release all the remaining Israeli hostages by midday this Saturday (15 February) then the ceasefire agreement should be cancelled and “all hell is going to break out”. Trump acknowledged that the decision to end the ceasefire ultimately fell to Israel.

s 47C, s 47E(d)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 11 February 2025

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: Canberra

Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts

From: Washington

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

President Trump s 22(1)(a)(ii) said the US would just take Gaza and he was 99 per cent sure he would land the deal. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments:

Executive events and statements

2. President Trump held a bilateral meeting and lunch with Jordan's King Abdullah and Crown Prince Al Hussein today (Abdullah is the first Arab leader to meet with Trump in his second term). Trump's Gaza proposal was on the agenda. Trump said on 10 February he would consider withholding aid to Jordan and Egypt if they did not agree to the United States "taking over" Gaza and the forced displacement of Palestinians under his plan. He said "yep, maybe, sure, why not? If they don't agree, I would conceivably withhold aid, yeah". It is almost a year to the day since King Abdullah was last at the White House where he spelled out his own vision very clearly - "an independent, sovereign and viable Palestinian state ... living side by side with Israel". There is no joint press conference planned.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

4. In speaking to press pool in the Oval Office ahead of his bilateral with King Abdullah, Trump talked about the United States taking over Gaza and said, “there’s nothing to buy, it’s a war torn area; we’re going to take it, we’re going to hold it, we’re going to cherish it”. Trump said he believed “99 per cent” that he could work out a deal with Egypt regarding displaced Gazans. When asked about Trump’s ideas, King Abdullah said he would wait to see what ideas the Egyptians had. Trump invited the King to speak on the issue. Abdullah said, “it’s hard to make this work in a way that’s good for everybody”.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

9. In responding to Hamas’s announcement that it would not release further hostages due to Israeli ceasefire violations; Trump said the deal should be “cancelled” and “all hell is going to break out” if the hostages are not released by noon Saturday (15 February).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 17 February 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

7. Rubio is also meeting today with the Saudi Crown Prince and the Saudi Foreign Minister to discuss Trump's Gaza plan. In Israel yesterday, Rubio met Prime Minister Netanyahu, President Herzog, Foreign Minister Sa'ar and Opposition Leader Lapid to discuss the plan, which Netanyahu described as the "only viable plan" going forward. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 24 February 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

10. On 23 February, the White House expressed support for Israel's decision to delay the release of Palestinian prisoners and said President Trump was "prepared to support Israel in whatever course of action it chooses regarding Hamas." A National Security Council spokesperson said in a statement: "Given Hamas' barbaric treatment of the hostages, including the hideous parade of the Bibas children's coffins through the streets of Gaza, Israel's decision to delay the release of prisoners is an appropriate response".

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 26 February 2025

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: Canberra

Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts

From: Washington

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

7. Trump posted on Truth Social an apparently AI-generated [video](#) that offers his vision for transforming the Gaza Strip into a resort enclave. A voice-over talks/sings “no more tunnels, no more fear, Trump Gaza is finally here ... Trump Gaza, shining bright, golden future, a brand new life”. Last night Special Envoy to the Middle East Witkoff announced a summit would soon be held with real estate developers and planners from the region to discuss Trump’s plan for Gaza. Witkoff said, “we’re going to conduct a summit pretty soon with probably the biggest developers in the Middle East region, many of the Arab developers — lots of master planners, I think when people see some of the ideas that come from this, they’re going to be amazed”.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 3 March 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

43. Israel stopped all humanitarian aid shipments into Gaza as the first phase of its ceasefire with Hamas expired yesterday. Prime Minister Netanyahu said the step was taken "in full coordination with President Trump and his people".

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 6 March 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

3. Trump issued what he called a “last warning” to Hamas to release all hostages in Gaza immediately, adding that he would send Israel “everything it needs to finish the job” if Hamas “don’t do as I say”. The United States has been holding direct talks with Hamas over the release of US hostages in Gaza and the possibility of a deal to end the war.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)



[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 19 March 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key Developments

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

12. Acting US Ambassador to the United Nations, Dorothy Shea, said yesterday that responsibility for the resumption of hostilities in Gaza “lies solely with Hamas”. She confirmed the United States supported Israel in its “next steps”. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told Fox News last night that “the White House was consulted by the Israelis on their attacks in Gaza tonight and as President Trump has made it clear, Hamas, the Houthis, Iran— all those who seek to terrorize not just Israel but also the United States of America— will see a price to pay, all hell will break loose”.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)



[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first days SitRep - 20 March 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key Developments

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

9. Department of State spokesperson Tammy Bruce told media yesterday the “opportunity” to extend the ceasefire in Gaza was still there “but it’s closing fast”. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration early days SitRep - 25 March 2025

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: Canberra

Cc: RR : Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts

From: Washington

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References:

Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

26. The White House responded positively to Egypt's proposal to get the Gaza ceasefire back on track. Hamas would release five living hostages, including an American-Israeli, in return for Israel allowing humanitarian aid into Gaza and a week-long pause in the fighting. Israel would also release hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first weeks SitRep - 7 April 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

President Trump will meet Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu at the White House today to discuss issues including the war in Gaza and tariffs. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

Executive events and statements

President Trump will meet Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu at the White House today and hold a joint press conference. It is their second meeting in Trump's second term. They will discuss Israel's 17 per cent tariff and the war in Gaza, including hostages, Iran, Syria, and Turkey, among other issues. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration first weeks SitRep - 10 April 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

32. The Administration has insisted Hamas, not Israel, bears full responsibility for every tragedy in the Gaza Strip since fighting resumed last month, including the Israeli military's recent killing of 15 humanitarian workers and paramedics. State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce has repeated in recent briefings that "every single thing that is happening in Gaza is happening because of Hamas — every single dynamic".

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration early months SitRep - 23 April 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Other key developments

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

23. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-New York) is leading a bipartisan congressional delegation to the s 22(1)(a)(ii) Israel and Jordan over the next week. In a statement, Jeffries said the lawmakers will discuss the geopolitical status of s 22(1)(a)(ii) a ceasefire in Gaza while in Israel and Jordan.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration early months SitRep - 30 April 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

L

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

8. Rubio is reportedly weighing eliminating the US security coordinator position for the West Bank and Gaza as part of a broader restructuring of diplomatic personnel. The position, typically held by a three-star general, facilitates coordination between Israeli and Palestinian political and military leaders to manage and prevent security crises.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: American Jewish Committee 2025 Global Forum
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References:
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

5. In a session titled “Exposing Bias: The Truth Behind Media Coverage of Israel”, journalist Matti Friedman outlined what he saw as the global media’s bias against Israel. He also noted Israeli restrictions meant only Palestinians were covering the Israel/Hamas conflict from inside Gaza. As a result, he argued much of the reporting was amplifying Hamas messaging or subject to Hamas censorship.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Haass was scathing of the Netanyahu Government’s approach to Gaza. The return of hostages should have been a priority, and the Israelis had yet to produce a coherent ‘day after’ strategy to politically alienate Hamas. Ultimately, Haass believed there needed to be an Arab stabilisation force (rather than a peacekeeping force) in Gaza to ensure Hamas was eliminated. The UN was impotent and mostly irrelevant to the future of Gaza, as it was elsewhere.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

10. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

. Mustafa Akyol stressed that the conflict in Gaza should not be framed as a religious war, but rather a territorial and political struggle. He warned against viewing the conflict in simplistic, binary terms that ignored the shared histories and aspirations of both peoples. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration early months SitRep - 8 May 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

Reuters reported the US and Israel were holding “high level” discussions centred around a transitional government headed by a US official that would oversee Gaza until it had been demilitarised and stabilised, and a viable Palestinian administration had emerged.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

29. The US-based World Central Kitchen charity yesterday announced it has halted its work in Gaza as it no longer had the supplies to cook meals or bake bread in the territory. The charity added it would continue to support Palestinian families by distributing critically needed potable water, but that its food distribution can only resume when Israel lifts its aid blockade.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration early months SitRep - 9 May 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Israeli Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer
met White House officials yesterday to discuss the war in Gaza s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

• s 22(1)(a)(ii)

24. The Department of State foreshadowed the announcement of a new arrangement to [deliver](#) food aid to Gaza was “steps away”. State spokesperson Tammy Bruce gave few details about the new mechanism but referred to a "charitable foundation" that she said would be carrying out the plan. Bruce said, "I was hoping to introduce it today, but the foundation will be announcing this shortly". Based on a document shared with the aid groups and the media, among the options being considered by the US is for the recently-established Gaza Humanitarian Foundation to stand up four "Secure Distribution Sites", each built to serve 300,000 people. The sites would provide pre-packaged rations, hygiene kits and medical supplies that would distributed through tightly-controlled corridors. US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee said today that Israel [would not take part](#) in the aid distribution itself and would not depend on there being a pause in fighting.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration early months SitRep - 12 May 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Trump departed for the Middle East today, announcing before departure that Israeli-American hostage Edan Alexander had been released by Hamas. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

5. Hamas announced yesterday it would **release Israeli-American hostage** Edan Alexander, believed to be the last living captive holding US citizenship, in a move intended as a goodwill gesture ahead of Trump's arrival in the Middle East. Trump announced the release on Truth Social and in a news conference on Monday. Alexander has been held by Hamas for over 550 days. Trump's Special Envoy for Hostage Response Adam Bohler was reportedly travelling to Israel with Alexander's parents to retrieve their son from Hamas' captivity. Prime Minister Netanyahu called to thank Trump for his efforts in securing the release. Alexander's family says that if his physical condition permits, he will meet with Trump while he is visiting the region this week.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

21. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee said on Friday the US-Israeli **plan to funnel humanitarian aid into parts of Gaza** would initially only feed about 60 per cent of the enclave's population. Huckabee added the proposal was a Trump "initiative".

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Trump Administration early months SitRep - 19 May 2025
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Americas Posts, Europe Posts, Indo-Pacific Posts, Middle East Posts
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key developments

Executive events and statements

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

He also said he expected the next round of negotiations “sometime this week in Europe”. In the same interview, Witkoff said Trump was concerned about humanitarian conditions in Gaza: “we do not want to see a humanitarian crisis. And we will not allow it to occur under President Trump’s watch”.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: Israel/OPTs: Hostage/ceasefire deal in effect
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Middle East Posts
Ministers: Foreign Minister
From: Canberra, Tel Aviv
(CHCH/DFAT/CCD/CPB/GWO)
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

The ceasefire in Gaza went into effect at 11:15am local time. Israel will release 90 Palestinian female prisoners in exchange for the release of three Israeli hostages by Hamas today. Further hostages will be released throughout the first, six-week phase of this deal. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: US announcement on Gaza: seeking reactions
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: s 33(a)(iii)

From: Canberra
(CHCH/DFAT/MAD/MEB)

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References:

Response: Routine, Information Only

Summary

Grateful posts report initial reactions to President Trump's announcement that the US would 'take over' and redevelop Gaza, and suggestion that Gazans might be relocated to neighbouring countries. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: G20: South Africa's G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: G20 Guests 2025; G20 Posts

Cc: RR : Africa Posts, Geneva WTO

From: Canberra
(CHCH/DFAT/OTN/MTB)

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Response: Routine, Information Only

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

[REDACTED]
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A Joint Communique was agreed following the meeting, with last minute negotiations on language relating to Gaza, s 22(1)(a)(ii) .

Geopolitics and the G20 agenda

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)



s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: GWO: Grey Alert : Israel : IDF strikes in Gaza

MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: FAF Posts

Cc:

From: Canberra
(CHCH/DFAT/CCD/CPB/GWO)

From File:

EDRMS

Files:

References: The cable has the following attachment/s -
Grey Alert - Israel - IDF strikes in Gaza.pdf
53354465.pdf

Response: Routine, Information Only

Cable provides a copy of the Global Watch Office product Grey Alert : Israel : IDF strikes in Gaza. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

OFFICIAL

From: Global Watch Office
Sent: Tuesday, 18 March 2025 1:16 PM
Subject: GREY ALERT : Israel : IDF strikes in Gaza [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Global Watch Office Grey Band Alert

Israel

IDF strikes in Gaza

On Tuesday 18 March at 0319 (1219 AEDT), Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that the IDF was attacking Hamas targets throughout the Gaza strip. Various media sources are reporting that between 30 and 80 Palestinians have been killed.

The strikes followed a statement from Netanyahu instructing the IDF to take 'strong action against the Hamas terrorist organisation'. Netanyahu added that 'Israel will, from now on, act against Hamas with increasing military strength'.

Media is reporting that Hamas has accused Israel of overturning the ceasefire agreement.

GWO will continue to monitor and provide a Situation Report as new information becomes available.

Media

Live feeds: [Al Jazeera](#), [ABC](#), [Times of Israel](#)

- [Reuters](#): Israeli military conducts strikes on Hamas targets in Gaza, army says
- [BBC](#): Israel conducting 'extensive strikes' on the Gaza Strip
- [AFP](#): Hamas Says Israel 'Decided To Overturn The Ceasefire Agreement'

DFAT.GOV.AU

*Grey alerts are issued for incidents/events that **may or are likely to** impact Australians or Australian interests. This message has been sent to portfolio ministers' offices the DFAT Executive, Duty Officers from MLS, PMO, PM&C, NEMA, ASIO and Defence, relevant HOM, DHOM, SAO, RCO, RSO, bilateral desk/s and policy sections.*

[REDACTED]
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Title: United States: Middle East: Emerging Trump Administration Policies
MRN: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Canberra
Cc: RR : Abu Dhabi, Amman, Brussels, Cairo, Doha, Islamabad, Jakarta, London, Ottawa, Riyadh, Tel Aviv, Tokyo
From: Washington
From File:
EDRMS
Files:
References: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Response: Routine, Information Only

[REDACTED]

Summary

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

Israel-Palestine issues

4. On 4 February, in a joint press conference with Prime Minister Netanyahu, Trump shared his proposal for the US to “take over” and develop the Gaza Strip. s 47C, s 47E(d)

5. Trump’s Gaza proposal has dominated media over the last week. s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

National Security Advisor Waltz said Arab countries should “come to the table with your plan if you don’t like his plan” and suggested the proposal was already reaping benefits as the White House had received “all kinds of outreach” since Trump’s announcement. On 5 February, White House Press Secretary Leavitt assured reporters that Palestinian displacement would be “temporary” and that no US troops or tax dollars would be involved in Gaza.

s 33(a)(iii), s 33(b)

Israel would give ownership of Gaza to the US, s 33(a)(iii), Trump has gone further, saying

reconstruction, including options for Arab states to rent sections of the strip from the US.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Pages 3-6 redacted under s 22(1)(a)(ii)