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The Diane Rehm Show: Palestinian Push for U.N. Membership

Ziad Asali
National Public Radio (NPR)
The Diane Rehm Show
September 21, 2011 - 12:00am

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Guests:

Ziad Asali

president and founder of The American Task Force on Palestine.

Peter David

Washington DC bureau chief, The Economist

David Makovsky

senior fellow and director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and co-author with Dennis Ross of "Myths, Illusions and Peace: Finding a New Direction for America in the Middle East."

President Obama is meeting separately with Israeli and Palestinian leaders later today in New York. It's part of an 11th hour effort to persuade Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to drop his plan to formally apply for U-N membership Friday, a unilateral action that the U-S has said it will veto. Israelis, Palestinians, and the U-S favor a two state solution, but the Obama administration and its European allies are committed to reviving direct peace talks and hammering out a negotiated settlement. In addition, Israel faces new tensions with long time allies, Turkey and Egypt. Palestine's bid for statehood at the U-N, what's at stake for the U-S, Israel and the Middle East.

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