



Palestinians wave national flags during a protest Thursday against U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Photo by Debbie Hill/UPI

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Dec. 7 (UPI) -- Israel Defense Forces said they would send reinforcements to the West Bank as Hamas leaders called for an uprising over the United State's Jerusalem decision.

IDF said a "situational assessment by the IDF General Staff" helped the military make the decision to "reinforce the area of the West Bank" after clashes ensued on Wednesday.

Protests came after U.S. President Donald Trump announced Wednesday the United States would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and added the U.S. Embassy in the country would be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Ahead of Trump's announcement, IDF Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot met with top military officers in the West Bank amid calls for violence in the region.

"We demand, call and will launch an intifada in the face of the Zionist occupation," Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said in a speech Thursday. "Jerusalem is being kidnapped and ripped from us."



A Palestinian girl holds the national flag during a protest Thursday over Trump's decision on Jerusalem. Photo by Debbie Hill/UPI

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Palestinians marched in several West Bank areas, throwing rocks and firebombs and burning American flags and pictures of U.S. leaders as part of a "day of rage." In Gaza, at least two Palestinians were injured by Israeli fire.

IDF Sends Forces To West Bank As Clashes Escalate Over Jerusalem

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

"We will not accept your patronage of the peace process anymore," Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah said of Trump. "We will confront you with unity, and Palestine will return to its 1967 borders with holy Jerusalem as its capital." Trump's decision to move the embassy and recognize Jerusalem as the capital was criticized and by many.

"The announcement has the potential to send us backward to even darker times than the ones we are already living in," Federica Mogherini, the European Union foreign-policy chief, said. "This move could diminish the potential role that the United States can play in the region and create more confusion around this."

"President Trump has delivered a message to the Palestinian people," Saeb Erekat, a chief Palestinian negotiator, said. "The two-state solution is over."



Palestinians chat slogans during a protest Thursday against U.S.

President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Photo by Debbie Hill/UPI

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However, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Trump was "simply carrying out the will of the American people."

"The reality is Israel's government offices, its courts are all in Jerusalem today, so it is just acknowledgment of what is reality on the ground," Tillerson said. (Courtesy <https://www.upi.com/>)

Related

Trump's Jerusalem move inflames Mideast tensions

Dec. 7 (UPI) -- U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and start preparations for the United States to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to the contested city has the potential to further inflame tensions across the Middle East.

Although this is not an unexpected move - Trump expressed his intention to do so during his electoral campaign - the decision breaks with years of precedent.

Trump's decision to move the embassy means he will not follow his predecessors by renewing a waiver on the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, which required the embassy to eventually be moved from Tel Aviv.



The American flag is projected beside the Israeli national flag on the wall of Jerusalem's Old City on Wednesday. Photo by Debbie Hill/UPI

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Since then, there has been a cross-party consensus in the United States that any act which recognizes the annexation of East Jerusalem by Israel and its designation as the country's capital would affect the fragile balance of power in the Middle East - and the ability of the United States to promote its interests in the region. U.S. diplomats have sought to tread carefully on this issue in one of the world's most treacherous political landscapes.

The Palestinian leadership condemned the move before Trump spoke, as did leaders from the Arab world and beyond. The announcement of the embassy move is likely to cause a wave of resentment among Palestinians in the occupied territories and the city itself, especially after two decades of stalemate in the peace process and deteriorating conditions throughout the Palestinian territories. Ahead of the speech, U.S. citizens and government employees were told to avoid Jerusalem's Old City and the West Bank until further notice.

Central to the peace process

Jerusalem is not just a city of historical importance to Judaism, Islam and Christianity, but also a site key to both Israeli and Palestinian identity. Add to this the cen-

trality of the status of Jerusalem in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, often described as one of the world's most intractable disputes, and it's clear why the decision to move the U.S. Embassy there has been described as tantamount to political arson.



Israeli border police confront a Palestinian during a protest against

U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel during a protest outside the Damascus Gate in East Jerusalem, December 7, 2017. Photo by Debbie Hill/UPI

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At the political level, most Israelis and Palestinians insist that Jerusalem must be the capital of their states, present and future, and that this is non-negotiable. This is why the final status of Jerusalem was deemed to be one of the thorniest issues in the Oslo peace process in the 1990s. It was envisaged to be circumnavigated, dealt with only at the stage of "permanent status negotiations," once all other issues between the state of Israel and the Palestinians were resolved.

As there has not been any progress in less important, yet substantive issues since Oslo, the issue of Jerusalem has acquired a symbolic importance among Palestinians. Jerusalem is a city dense in symbolism in the Palestinian national imagination. Particularly so as other, more material anchors of identity such as territory, governance and self-determination are continually being eroded by the harsh realities of Israeli occupation, the blockade of Gaza and deteriorating cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian authorities.

The response to Trump's announcement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and most of his government was muted. But its symbolic value among nationalist circles in Israel, and also among many ordinary Israelis, should not be underestimated.

The Israeli government has been active in strengthening Israeli claims to the entire city since its annexation in 1980. Settlement building around Jerusalem has aimed to ring-fence the city and integrate it more into Israel. Meanwhile, there were building restrictions in East Jerusalem, and a series of restrictions to Palestinian access to the Al-Aqsa mosque, built on the remnants of the last Jewish Temple. Both sets of restrictions were lifted.

Equally important in terms of symbolic politics has been Israel's archaeological intervention around Jerusalem, which Palestinians see as an attempt to strengthen Israel's historical connection with the city.



Israeli border police confront Palestinians during a protest

against U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel during a protest outside the Damascus Gate in East Jerusalem, December 7, 2017. Photo by Debbie Hill/UPI

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Wider significance

Trump's decision seems oblivious to the fragility of coexistence in the city between its Israeli and Palestinian inhabitants. It also ignores the significance of Jerusalem in Palestinian national identity and national aspirations and the devastating impact on the future of a moribund peace process. It has the potential of not only affecting the political ecology of a place where history is a matter of life and death, but could also cause a ripple effect much further afield. It can destabilize a Palestinian authority already deprived of legitimacy and an array of fragile Arab regimes. And it is likely to accentuate the enmity between Israel and Iran. Iran perceives such a move as a "violation of Islamic sanctities" and, together with Trump's revitalized alliance with Saudi Arabia, a clear sign of the U.S. president's anti-Iranian stance.

Last but not least, it could further stoke the flames of anti-Western Islamic movements in the Muslim world and the West alike, which have always put Jerusalem and the Palestinian issue in a central position. (Courtesy (Courtesy <https://www.upi.com/>))

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Dr. Hwang is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He earned his undergraduate and medical degree from the National Taiwan University College of Medicine in Taipei. He completed residency programs at National Taiwan University Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem, Penn. In addition, he earned a postgraduate degree of Master of Public Health in maternal and child health from the prestigious Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore, Md. He is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Texas Medical Association and Harris County Medical Society.

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A Snapshot Of The World



A man waits for clients at private vegetable market in Havana



FILE PHOTO: John Schnatter, founder and CEO of Papa John's Pizza, arrives at the 2011 American Music Awards in Los Angeles



FILE PHOTO: A journalist takes picture of Xiaomi's new mobile phone Mi Max at its launch in Beijing



Carles Puigdemont, the dismissed President of Catalonia, arrives to speak after watching the results of Catalonia's regional election in Brussels



Marta Rovira, General Secretary of Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC), speaks after the regional elections in Catalonia, in Barcelona



A general view as the 5th Conference of Cell Chairpersons of the Workers' Party of Korea opens in Pyongyang



A worker removes tape from a Santa Claus figurine in Santiago, Chile



British Prime Minister Theresa May speaks with troops serving at RAF Akrotiri, one of two military bases Britain maintains in Cyprus



U.S. Vice President Mike Pence greets troops in a hangar at Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan

Drugmaker Pfizer will launch its own generic version of Viagra next week when the company's patent protection on the impotence pill expires and competition hits the market.

Pfizer Inc. will begin selling the pill — which is white instead of Viagra's trademark blue — at half the \$65-a-pill retail price on Monday, when its patent-protected monopoly ends, The Associated Press reported.

Many more generics go on sale next summer, which will steadily slash the price of generics, possibly by 90 percent.

"Patients are paying fortunes. When generic Viagra comes out, they will be very happy," said Dr. Nachum Katlowitz, a urologist at New York's Staten Island University Hospital.



Launched in 1998, Viagra was the first pill for impotence. It transformed a private frustration for many aging men into a publicly discussed medical condition with an easy treatment, far more appealing than options like penile injections and implants.

Eli Lilly's Cialis came out in 2003 and now dominates the U.S. market with on-demand pills and daily, low-dose ones. Viagra is a close second.

Pfizer says its market research shows 20 percent of customers are loyal to Viagra. So rather than give up sales to generic makers as brand-name drug makers once routinely did, the company is selling its own generic and also fighting to keep men on its blue pills.

"We believe that the story for Viagra isn't done. It's just going to be a new chapter," said Jim Sage, president of U.S. brands for Pfizer Essential Health, which sells its older medicines.

In January, the drug maker will offer two new discount programs and increase its copayment card discounts. Uninsured

Pfizer's Viagra Patent Protection Ends -- Generic Viagra Days Away

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Monday, Dec. 4, 2017, photo shows Pfizer's Viagra, left, and the company's generic version, sildenafil citrate, at Pfizer Inc., headquarters in New York. The drug maker is launching its own cheaper generic version of Viagra rather than lose sales when its impotence pill gets its first generic competition. (AP/Photo)

men can get brand-name Viagra half off through an innovative online home delivery program, Pfizer Direct. Many insured patients will be able to get a month's prescription — typically six to 10 pills, depending on plan limits — for as little as a \$20 copayment.

"This is the most comprehensive pricing and marketing response I've seen to a generic," said Erik Gordon, a pharmaceuticals analyst at the University of Michigan's business school. "It's unprecedented."

Gordon thinks Pfizer's reduced prices will

retain some patients and attract others who buy pills, often counterfeits, from the internet.

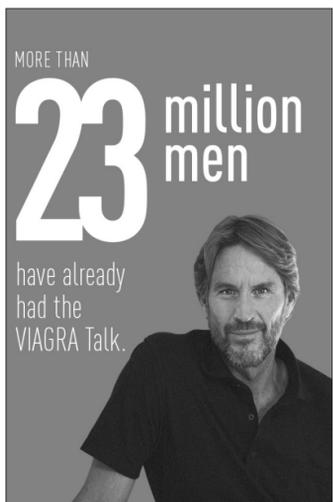
Dr. Matthias Hofer, a urologist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, said some of his insured patients who take Viagra wouldn't want a generic. "They will be ecstatic if they can save money and get the brand product from Pfizer," he said.

Last year, more than 12 million prescriptions for Viagra and Cialis were filled in the U.S., generating a combined \$3 billion in sales, according to health data and clinical

research company IQVIA. However, prescriptions have dropped more than 20 percent since 2012, as repeated price hikes put the pills out of reach for many men lacking good insurance.

According to health information analytics firm Elsevier, over just the past decade, retail prices jumped from about \$10 to \$62 per pill for Viagra and from \$11 to \$61 for Cialis. Pharmacies and other middlemen add a few dollars more per pill.

Generic Viagra, called sildenafil, will become even more affordable starting June 11, when more versions go on sale. "Many



patients already know it's going generic and they want it," said Aracely Pena, a medical assistant at San Diego Sexual Medicine.

Cialis and Levitra, another pill launched in 2003, get their own generic competition next fall.

In the meantime, some doctors specializing in sexual dysfunction have found other options. Some prescribe generic Revatio, the blood pressure pill Pfizer was testing when older patients reported stronger erections as a side effect. It contains one-fifth the sildenafil dose in Viagra and costs as little as \$1 per pill.



Northwestern's Hofer arranges for his patients to receive made-to-order pills from a couple of specialty pharmacies.

Daniel Lobello, 60, is satisfied with those pills but thinks a lot of men probably would use cheaper generic or brand-name Viagra.

"It's great" that the prices are getting cut, said the West Chester, Illinois, electrical inspector, "because it's something men need." (Courtesy https://www.newsmx.com)

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The thinking behind Kim Jong Un's "madness"

On an icy December day in 2011, North Korea's new leader Kim Jong Un was accompanied by seven advisers as they escorted the hearse that carried his father, Kim Jong Il, through the streets of Pyongyang.

None of the men remain with the young Kim. This October, he demoted the last of his father's aides, both men in their nineties. They were among around 340 people he has purged or executed, according to the Institute for National Security Strategy, a think tank of South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS).

Kim, "obviously a madman" in the eyes of U.S. President Donald Trump, has completed a six-year transition to what the South calls a reign of terror. His unpredictability and belligerence have instilled fear worldwide: After he tested a "breakthrough" missile earlier this week, he pronounced North Korea a nuclear power capable of striking the United States. But a closer look at his leadership reveals a method behind the "madness."

At 33, Kim Jong Un is one of the world's youngest heads of state. He inherited a nation with a proud history, onto which a socialist state had essentially been grafted by Cold War superpowers to create a buffer between Communist China and the capitalist South. Under Kim's father, the economy was mismanaged,

and the collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union eliminated an important source of support. Up to three million people starved. To consolidate a weak position, the young leader has been cultivating three main forces: military and nuclear power, a tacit private sector market economy, and the fear and adoration of a god. To this end, he has executed two powerful men and promoted one young woman - Kim Yo Jong, his younger sister, who Korea-watchers say is also Kim's chief propagandist. She is Kim's only other blood relative to be involved in politics: His elder brother, Kim Jong Chol, was rejected by their father as heir. Over the five years to December 2016, Kim spent \$300 million

on 29 nuclear and missile tests, \$180 million on building some 460 family statues, and as much as \$1 billion on a party congress in 2016 - including \$26.8 million on fireworks alone, according to the Institute, which employs high-level defectors. "Yes, he has replaced many top commanders and officials so easily and ruthlessly killed some of them, which could make you wonder if he's sane," said Lee Sang-keun, a North Korean leadership expert at the Institute of Unification Studies at Ewha Womans University in Seoul. "But this is a historical way of governing that can put you in power for a long time." In ancient days, Pyongyang was the capital of a mighty empire, Koguryo, the root of the modern word "Korea." Going back through history, the Great Leader



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un gives opening remarks at the 5th Conference of Cell Chairpersons of the Workers' Party of Korea DIOR-FRANCE/

concept is a blend of several ideas handed down through time: an almighty god, the Confucian worship of a parent, and a king with the Mandate of Heaven, according to Lee Seung-yeol, a senior researcher at the National Assembly Research Service in Seoul. VULNERABLE: Behind the new leader Kim Jong Un, his younger sister Kim Yo Jong also wept at their father's funeral in December 2011. REUTERS/KCNA via Reuters TV "This is a historical way of governing that can put you in power for a long time." Lee Sang-keun, Institute of Unification Studies, Ewha Womans University, Seoul.

Lee, a leading North Korea leadership researcher, said the state's theory of succession means Kim the younger's rise should have been completed while his father was alive: Kim's father was anointed 20 years before he took over, giving him time to build allies and a leadership system. Born in 1984, he was third in line for power and a fractious, competitive child, according to Kenji Fujimoto, a Japanese chef who worked for the family and one of the few people to recount meetings with the young Kim. In his memoirs published in 2010, Fujimoto, who now runs a sushi restaurant in

Pyongyang, said Kim once snapped at his aunt Ko Yong Suk for calling him "Little General." Kim wanted to be called "Comrade General." When Kim Jong Il knew his young son would soon succeed him, researchers have said, the father took several measures to protect the boy. Lee said these included shifting the country's power base to create rivalry between the elites so Kim the younger could play one group off against another.

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