

Defense minister announces formation of ‘special team’ to assess annexation

Naftali Bennett calls for interim government to move quickly to declare sovereignty over West Bank settlements, Jordan Valley before elections

By [Judah Ari Gross](#) 29 January 2020

Defense Minister Naftali Bennett on Wednesday announced that he had established a special team to lead the effort to annex West Bank Jewish settlements, the Jordan Valley and the area around the Dead Sea, following the release of US President Donald Trump’s plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

[...]

“Last night, people around the prime minister announced that the decision on sovereignty [over the Jordan Valley and settlements] would come to a vote on Sunday. This morning we’re hearing a different tune,” Bennett said, speaking at the **annual conference of the Institute for National Security Studies** think tank in Tel Aviv.

The defense minister, who is head of the Yamina bloc of religious right-wing parties, said he would “not miss this opportunity” to annex portions of the West Bank.

“I will be clear: Whatever is postponed until after the elections will never happen. We all understand this,” Bennett said.

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