

## **Russia Says U.S. Backing for Israeli Settlements Blow to Peace Process**

By <u>Reuters</u>

November 19, 2019



## Zuma / TASS

Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry said Tuesday that a U.S. decision to effectively back Israel's right to build Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank undermined the legal basis for a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday abandoned Washington's four-decade-old position that such settlements were "inconsistent with international law."

**Related article**: <u>Russian Foreign Ministry 'Alarmed' by Trump's Recognition of Jerusalem as</u> <u>Israel's Capital</u>

Russia's Foreign Ministry condemned the change of policy in a statement on Tuesday, warning the move would escalate tensions in the region.

Moscow's stance is that such settlements on Palestinian territory are illegal under international law, it said.

Original url:

https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/11/19/russia-says-us-backing-for-israeli-settlements-blow-to-peace-process-a68234