

## Barak:Israel Will Never Accept Iran Having Nuclear Arms Ability

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Barak to Rice: Israel will not accept nuclear Iran

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Defense Minister Ehud Barak met with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and told her that Israel is committed to the safety of its citizens while at the same time acting to improve the lives of the Palestinians in the West Bank.

Regarding Iran Barak said that the US must continue to impose sanctions on the country, as Israel would not accept a nuclear Iran and would remove no options from the table. (Roni Sofer)

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3587685,00.html>

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Tel Aviv. At a meeting with the American Secretary of State &ndash; Condoleezza Rice, Ehud Barak, Israeli Defense Minister, stated that Washington has to exert more pressure on Iran, in order to avoid any possibility for the country to acquire a nuclear weapon, ITAR-TASS reported. Barak highlighted that &ldquo;Israel considers a nuclear Iran unacceptable and doesn&rsquo;t exclude any measures on the matter.&rdquo; It is unknown what Condoleezza Rice&rsquo;s opinion was. Some days ago, US Secretary of State stated that Washington has said neither &lsquo;yes&rsquo;, nor &lsquo;no&rsquo;; to a possible military operation in Israel, as the latter is a sovereign state.

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### Barak:Israel Will Never Accept Iran Having Nuclear Arms Ability

JERUSALEM (AFP)--Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said Monday that Israel will never accept Iran developing a nuclear weapons capability, according to a statement issued after a dinner meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"Mr. Barak has once again underlined the fact that Israel cannot accept that Iran acquires nuclear (capability). Israel refuses to rule out any options" in its handling of the issue, the defense ministry statement said, in an allusion to a previously stated threat to use force.

"The United States must continue to impose effective economic sanctions on Tehran with the goal of preventing Iran from building nuclear arms," Barak told Rice during their meeting, according to the statement.

Rice arrived in Tel-Aviv Monday in a bid to restart stalled Middle East peace negotiations.

Israel, the region's sole although undeclared nuclear-armed state, considers Iran its main strategic threat. The U.S. and Israel suspect Iran is using the program to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran has repeatedly denied the allegations, insisting the program is aimed solely at providing electricity for its growing population as its fossils fuels run out.

The United States has never ruled out military action against Iran over its defiance of international demands to freeze uranium enrichment, but so far is pursuing a diplomatic route.

"The position of the United States is well known. They do not want, for the time being, any (military) action against Iran," Barak told army radio on Aug. 13.

"Our position is that no option is to be taken off the table but in the meantime we have to make diplomatic progress," he said.

-Dow Jones Newswires

[http://www.nasdaq.com/aspxcontent/NewsStory.aspx?cpath=20080825\ACQDJON200808251819DOWJONESDJONLINE000424.htm&selected=9999&selecteddisplaysymbol=9999&StoryTargetFrame=\\_top&mkt=WORLD&chk=unchecked&lang=&link=&headlinereturnpage=http://www.international.na](http://www.nasdaq.com/aspxcontent/NewsStory.aspx?cpath=20080825\ACQDJON200808251819DOWJONESDJONLINE000424.htm&selected=9999&selecteddisplaysymbol=9999&StoryTargetFrame=_top&mkt=WORLD&chk=unchecked&lang=&link=&headlinereturnpage=http://www.international.na)