

Major Power Warns About Possible Israel-Hizbullah Confrontation

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A major power has warned that Israel could attack Hizbullah to cover up its move to thwart the settlement that U.S. President Barack Obama sought since he came to office, An Nahar daily reported Saturday.

The newspaper expected U.S. Mideast envoy George Mitchell to fail in his mission at this stage to achieve a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

On Friday, Mitchell stressed Washington's commitment to a Palestinian state after meeting the Israeli and Palestinian leaders, at a time when hopes of a peace breakthrough appear dimmer than ever.

At a three-way summit on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly last month Obama told Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to stop dragging their feet and restart peace talks that were suspended after the Gaza war broke out at the end of last year.

The major power told An Nahar that the Lebanese should form the cabinet as soon as possible to face Israeli plans although the Lebanese army and Hizbullah are ready for any emergency.

Security sources in Beirut wondered why Lebanese leaders were putting sticks in the wheel of cabinet formation at a time when Israel has mobilized its army in the north and urged its troops to adopt different fighting techniques than during the 2006 war with Hizbullah.

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<http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/NewsDesk.nsf/getstory?openform&928BFA82F093DE35C225764B002556C4>