

Assad: Golan Heights must be in peace plan

by UPI

DAMASCUS, Syria - Syrian President Bashar Assad said a workable Mideast peace plan must include a settlement of the disputed Golan Heights on the Syrian-Israeli border. The Syrian Arab News Agency, SANA, reported that Assad discussed the issue Wednesday with Amr Moussa, secretary-general of the Arab League. "Any peace initiative that does not include the Syrian Golan Heights is not serious and will not achieve a 'Syria Ready' comprehensive, just peace in the region," Assad said. Syria has reportedly signaled its willingness to participate in the peace conference sponsored by the United States to be held later this month in Annapolis, Md. But the United States and Israel have reportedly agreed that the main focus is to be a settlement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. In Israel, Defense Minister Ehud Barak said this week he supports including Syrian issues in the conference, Ynetnews reported.

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