

Arab League debates summit attendance

by UPI

CAIRO -- Arab League foreign ministers met Friday in Cairo to decide whether to attend the upcoming Israeli-Palestinian peace conference in the United States. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was to speak to the ministers at the summit to update them on the status of his preliminary talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert ahead of next week's conference in Annapolis, Md., the BBC reported Friday. The BBC said the failure of Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a joint declaration for the conference could lead some Arab countries to choose not to participate in the summit. Hisham Youssef, a senior Arab League official, said the ministers' decision will be "a positive one" if they decide the Annapolis talks could lead to a "reasonable outcome that would allow progress to be achieved." Egypt has already committed its foreign minister to appear at the Annapolis conference.

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