

## Germany backs Israel response to rockets

*by UPI*

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany would support an Israeli operation in Gaza to counter the continual rocket fire at Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, during a state visit to Germany, also said Iran posed a threat to the world, Ynetnews.com reported Tuesday. Merkel told Olmert that Israel had the right to defend itself against Kassam attacks in cities near Gaza, the news agency reported. Olmert said Israel is "absolutely determined to respond to the challenge of terrorism from Gaza" and would continue peace talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Concerning Iran, Olmert said Israel believed Iran was proceeding with plans "to create a capacity for non-conventional weapons," despite a U.S. intelligence report that Tehran stopped its nuclear weapons program.

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