

Middle East peace talks likely in November

by UPI

JERUSALEM -- A summit on peace in the Middle East is likely to take place in November, aides to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in Jerusalem on Thursday. Rice arrived in Jerusalem for a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert after a Wednesday visit to Jeddah, where she talked with Saudi leaders. Sources told Ynetnews the peace conference would include Israel and moderate Arab states, such as Bahrain, Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia, but no date or location has been set. During the meeting with Olmert, the prime minister told Rice the Palestinian Hamas party must "be kept out of the game," the Jerusalem Post reported. Olmert also detailed Israel's efforts to work with Palestinian Authority Chairman and Fatah leader Mahmoud Abbas, the Post said. Israel has unfrozen some tax revenues, released some Palestinian prisoners and given humanitarian aid in Gaza. After meeting with Olmert, Rice departed for Ramallah to meet with Abbas, the report said.

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