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AIPAC Chief Warns Obama: Don't Be Even-Handed With Palestinians

By Jason Ditz

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Speaking one day after President Barack Obama's address to their national conference, AIPAC Executive Director Howard Kohr [warned the president against treating both Israel and the Palestinians "even-handedly."](#)

According to Kohr, treating both sides equally would mean "Israel is automatically at a disadvantage" and that it would put "Palestinians and Arabs" in a better position. The comments echo Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's [angry condemnation](#) of the notion of a return to the 1967 borders.

Of course in yesterday's speech, Obama [already completely disavowed](#) his previous comments about the 1967 borders. Prime Minister Netanyahu likewise insisted that Obama's furious backpedal was acceptable to him. This Kohr's rebuke of Obama seem like kicking a man when he's down.

Kohr went on to insist that even the suggestion of equal treatment by the US in brokering a peace deal would make such a deal impossible, and that only by insisting the US and Israel have identical positions would the Palestinians ever agree to a deal. The talks ended in September after Israel refused to pause expanding settlements into the territory of a potential Palestinian state.