



## A CONCERN ABOUT THE WORLD HOLY PLACES

### JERUSALEM

HEADLINES OUT OF WASHINGTON D.C. OVER THE WEEKEND INDICATED THAT NEWLY INAUGURATED U.S. PRESIDENT **DONALD TRUMP** WAS CONSIDERING HIS FOREIGN POLICY STANCE TOWARDS ISRAEL, WHICH COULD ENTAIL RELOCATING THE U.S. EMBASSY IN THE COUNTRY FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM. CNBC TAKES A LOOK AT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MOVE, AND WHAT ITS REPERCUSSIONS COULD BE

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DURING HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, TRUMP PLEDGED THAT HE WOULD MOVE THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ISRAEL FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM. BUT, SO FAR THE PLAN REMAINS NASCENT. IN A WIDELY REPORTED STATEMENT SUNDAY, **WHITE HOUSE** PRESS SECRETARY

SEAN SPICER SAID: "WE ARE AT THE VERY BEGINNING STAGES OF EVEN DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT."

IT IS ALSO UNDERSTOOD THAT TRUMP SPOKE ON THE TELEPHONE TO ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER **BENJAMIN NETANYAHU** OVER THE WEEKEND. NEWS REPORTS SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT REITERATED HIS "UNPRECEDENTED COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY" AND INVITED NETANYAHU TO VISIT WASHINGTON D.C. IN EARLY FEBRUARY.

BOTH ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS CONSIDER JERUSALEM TO BE THEIR CAPITAL, AND EACH SIDE HAS HISTORICAL, POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS CLAIMS TO THE CITY.

HUGH LOVATT, ISRAEL/PALESTINE PROJECT COORDINATOR AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, TOLD CNBC VIA TELEPHONE THAT TRUMP'S POTENTIAL TO MOVE THE U.S. EMBASSY WAS "ALTOGETHER A WORRYING PHENOMENON," AS IT SIGNIFIED A "BROADER U.S. DRIVE WHICH RISKS SEVERELY UNDERMINING NOT JUST STABILITY (IN THE REGION) BUT ALSO THE TWO STATE SOLUTION."