



Associated Press

Gov. Vic Atiyeh (left) was told by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that the U.S. Embassy belongs in Jerusalem, not Tel Aviv

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Atiyeh, Israel's leader meet

JERUSALEM (UPI) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh Thursday that the United States should move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and stop leading the diplomatic boycott of Israel's disputed capital.

"If the United States, which is the most important country in the world, does not move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, then other countries won't do so either," Shamir said. "This is a situation which cannot go on forever. One day the embassies will have to be moved to our capital."

Shamir explained to Atiyeh, a Republican of Syrian descent, that "Israel is the only country in the world where foreign embassies are not in the capital."

Costa Rica is the only one of the more than 40 nations represented in Israel that has its embassy in Jerusalem.

The United States and the other countries have their embassies in Tel Aviv and

consulates in Jerusalem, claiming the status of the city must be determined in negotiations.

A group of U.S. senators, led by Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., is seeking to pass a proposal to have the American Embassy moved to West Jerusalem, but President Reagan has indicated he would veto such a measure.

Shamir disclaimed any Israel push behind Moynihan's effort: "We are not involved in the debate in the United States, but everyone knows our position. It is a painful thing for us that our best friends do not recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital."

The United States has had its embassy in Tel Aviv since the founding of the Israeli state in 1948.

The Tel Aviv site stems from the U.N. resolution of 1947 to partition Palestine into a Jewish state and Arab Palestinian state,

with Jerusalem as an international city.

The Israelis declared their state a nation, but the Palestinian Arabs and five Arab states went to war against Israel. Jordan conquered Arab east Jerusalem and the Israelis held on to Jewish West Jerusalem. Israel declared Jerusalem its capital.

In 1967, Israel took the eastern part of the city from Jordan and annexed it to the western half. In 1981, the Israeli parliament reaffirmed in a law that Jerusalem was Israel's eternal, undivided capital.

The United States still did not move the embassy from Tel Aviv, but kept the consulate in Jerusalem — with one building in the east and the other in the west. The consulate operates independently and reports directly to Washington.

Atiyeh met earlier with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.