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From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
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Subject: Fw: France: Peace talks soon, or Palestinian state (AP)

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Subject: France: Peace talks soon, or Palestinian state (AP)

PARIS - (AP) France's president says he will advocate a Palestinian state if peace talks with Israel don't get restarted by September.

Nicholas Sarkozy is quoted by the weekly magazine L'Express as saying that if talks between Israel and the Palestinians don't resume over the summer, France will help promote international recognition of a Palestinian state.

Palestine has been recognized as an independent state by scores of nations, but not by the United States and most European countries. Palestinian diplomats have said they plan to ask the U.N. General Assembly for recognition in September.

Sarkozy's comments came a day after a reconciliation agreement between the two main Palestinian factions.

Sarkozy is expected to discuss the possibility of a Palestinian state in a meeting with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Paris on Thursday.

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