

Germany to support Israel if it gets on UN Security Council

BERLIN Germany has said it will stand up for Israel's interests and security if it wins a non-permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

The German foreign ministry said Saturday that Israel's decision to withdraw its candidacy "is a further incentive for us to stand up for the interests and safety of our Israeli friends" if Germany wins a Security Council seat.

Friday's withdrawal by Israel virtually guarantees Germany and Belgium victory in the June 8 election and seats on the council.

Israel was in a three-way contest with Germany and Belgium for two seats representing the Western-democratic group of nations on the U.N.'s most powerful body starting in January.

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