

Israeli PM Netanyahu travels to Washington to meet with Biden, Congress

July 22 (UPI) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will arrive in Washington on Monday for talks with the Biden administration and address a joint session of the House and Senate on Wednesday.

The visit comes at a tenuous time in Israel, which is at war with Hamas in Gaza and taking fire from other fronts, and the United States with President Joe Biden officially ending his re-election bid on Sunday.

Biden has given strong support for Israel in defending itself against Hamas since that war started in October but has also strongly criticized Netanyahu for his handling of the war and the mounting deaths of Palestinian civilians.

While Israel officially has not weighed in on U.S. politics, Netanyahu grew close to Donald Trump as he moved the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and implemented other pro-Israeli policies, such as recognizing its annexation of the Golan Heights. He also had a chilly relationship with Democratic President Barack Obama, whom Biden served as vice president under.

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