

Trump's Middle East Trip Begins with a Whirlwind

President Donald Trump ended the first day of his first Middle East trip in the second term with a series of stunning economic and political initiatives. The moves will likely have a major impact on the region, the U.S., and Israel.

The president signed a deal on Tuesday with Saudi Arabia worth hundreds of billions of dollars. He also encouraged Saudi Prince Mohammed bin Salman to recognize Israel, claimed he's lifting sanctions on Syria, and issued a new warning to Iran.

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The deal with Saudi Arabia amounts to about \$600 billion – including a \$142 billion arms agreement – with potentially more investments up to a trillion dollars.

At the Saudi Investor Conference, Trump urged the Saudis to join the Abraham Accords, stating, "It's my fervent hope, wish, and even my dream that Saudi Arabia, a place I have such respect for, especially over the last fairly short period of time, what you've been able to do, but will soon be joining the Abraham Accords."

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He added, "It will be a special day in the Middle East with the whole world watching, when Saudi Arabia joins us, and you'll be greatly honoring me and you will be greatly honoring all of those people that have fought so hard for the Middle East, and I really think it's going to be something special. You'll do it in your own time."

The president also criticized the regime in Tehran and blamed it for much of the turmoil in the Middle East.

“The biggest and most destructive of these forces is the regime in Iran, which has caused unthinkable suffering in Syria, Lebanon, Gaza, Iraq, Yemen, and beyond,” Trump declared.

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And he issued an ultimatum.

“I want to make a deal with Iran,” he said. “If I can make a deal with Iran, I’ll be very happy if we’re going to make your region and the world a safer place. But if Iran’s leadership rejects this olive branch and continues to attack their neighbors, then we will have no choice but to inflict massive maximum pressure, drive Iranian oil exports to zero, like I did before... and take all action required to stop the regime from ever having a nuclear weapon. Iran will never have a nuclear weapon.”

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