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Subject: Afternoon Clips – Wednesday, December 28, 2016

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Nikki Haley: UN Ambassador News:

Foreign Policy Magazine: The U.N. Has Great Potential for Trump!

http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/12/28/the-u-n-has-great-potential-for-trump-nikki-haley/?utm_content=bufferb6715&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Suzanne Nossel

After January 20th things will be different at the UN,” President-elect Donald Trump tweeted ominously after a historic Security Council vote to condemn Israeli settlements in the West Bank passed over a U.S. abstention last week. Trump had turned to Twitter days earlier to implore President Barack Obama to veto the resolution at the request of the Israelis. The split between incoming and outgoing U.S. presidents over the measure led to a few days of turmoil and a delay in the vote only to culminate in a highly public rebuke by the Security Council of Israel’s policy. It seems all but certain that the fleeting display of unity in New York over the future of the Israel-Palestine conflict will quickly be subsumed by an even more polarized posture once Trump takes office. For the U.N. itself, the confrontational posture of the vote poses a graver risk that the incoming Trump administration’s heretofore inattention to the U.N. morphs into a posture of active disdain and outright conflict. A few days after the vote, the president-elect was still mulling over the world body, tweeting: “The United Nations has such great potential but right now it is just a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time. So sad!” His Republican colleagues, meanwhile, including Sens. Lindsey Graham and Ted Cruz were busy preparing proposals to suspend U.S. funding of the U.N. to punish the Security Council vote.

NOTE: Incoming U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, the current governor of South Carolina, will come to the U.N. long on political skills but short on foreign-policy experience. As she studies up on her new role, she needs to decide whether to define success in terms of satisfying constituencies in Washington that aim to weaken and marginalize the U.N., or whether to strive to build a constructive working relationship that enhances the U.N.’s utility as a vehicle for advancing U.S. interests.

NOTE: As the new prime mover in dealings with New York Haley’s choice of approach could shape the future of U.S.-U.N. relations as well as of perceptions of the Trump administration and Washington’s leadership throughout the world.

NOTE: For Democrats, Haley is among the few incoming Trump cabinet members whose background, temperament, and ideology seem relatively palatable. Dropped into the polarizing environs of Turtle Bay, Haley will need to summon all her political chops if she is to succeed in the eyes of both New York and Washington.

Washington Post: Inside the coming war between the United States and the United Nations

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/josh-rogin/wp/2016/12/28/inside-the-coming-war-between-the-united-states-and-the-united-nations/?utm_term=.fda984112a4b

Josh Rogin

Even before Donald Trump’s inauguration as president, Congress is planning to escalate the clash over the U.N. Security Council’s anti-Israel resolution into a full-on conflict between the United States and the United Nations. If Trump embraces the strategy — and all signals indicate he will — the battle could become the Trump administration’s first confrontation with a major international

organization, with consequential but largely unpredictable results. Immediately after the Obama administration abstained Friday from a vote to condemn Israeli settlements as illegal, which passed the Security Council by a vote of 14 to zero, Republicans and Democrats alike criticized both the United Nations and the U.S. government for allowing what Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) called "a one-sided, biased resolution." Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), the chairman of the Senate appropriations subcommittee for the State Department and foreign operations, pledged to lead an effort to withhold the U.S. funding that makes up 22 percent of the U.N.'s annual operating budget.

NOTE: There are signs that the Trump administration might be willing to make that deal. Its nominees for secretary of state and U.N. ambassador, Rex Tillerson and Nikki Haley, respectively have no ideological baggage on the issue. Trump himself tweeted that the United Nations "has such great potential but right now it is just a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time. So sad!"

McClatchy DC: Who paid for all those job applicants to visit Trump Tower?

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/white-house/article123293684.html>

Vera Bergengruen

Since the election, more than 100 potential appointees to Donald Trump's administration have traveled from all over the country to Manhattan to meet with the president-elect. The ways these transition meetings are financed have been as varied as the candidates themselves. When South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley traveled to Trump Tower in November, the Republican Governors Association and the Republican National Committee covered her travel costs, according to her office. After the meeting, Trump nominated Haley to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. In other cases, state taxpayers picked up the tabs for their officials' trips to New York. Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, who was appointed vice chairwoman of the Trump-Pence presidential transition team, used the state plane for her visit to Trump Tower. The trip cost Oklahomans more than \$6,000, mostly for the cost of the fuel. Most people who responded to McClatchy's requests for information had paid their own way. Former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue traveled to New York in a Delta coach seat "with no mention or expectation of reimbursement," his spokesman said.

Governor Nikki Haley News:

Associated Press: Uneasy 2015 in South Carolina leads to more trials in 2016

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=qax6NHlo

Jeffrey Collins

2015 was supposed to be the uneasy year in South Carolina. The state was stunned by a videotaped police shooting of a fleeing black motorist, nine churchgoers killed in a hate crime, and a billion-dollar flood. But then came 2016. Along with two exhausting trials from the previous year's killings, South Carolinians endured the fatal school shooting of a first-grader, a serial killer who police said chained a woman inside a container, and landfalling Hurricane Matthew, which flooded the state all over again. So when Gov. Nikki Haley spoke at the celebration to light the state Christmas tree earlier this month, she thanked residents for their prayers and their faith, even as things seemed to go from bad to worse. "Through all of that, we never fought. We never protested. We prayed. We found our faith. We hugged each other. We showed love and kindness and respect for each other," Haley said. Chances are Haley won't be lighting the 2017 Christmas tree. Causing a final flurry of political turmoil, she accepted President-elect Donald Trump's appointment to be ambassador to the United Nations, and plans to resign once the U.S. Senate confirms her appointment. Here is a look at the stories that shook South Carolina in 2016...

NOTE: NEW GOVERNOR: Donald Trump's victory in the presidential race shook up South Carolina politics in ways that may be felt for the next decade. Haley's acceptance of the U.N. ambassador job likely will elevate Trump's first and biggest South Carolina supporter, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, to the governor's office. That means McMaster can run as an incumbent for what was expected to be an open governor's seat in 2018. Already, potential candidates for that race are changing plans. As for who takes McMaster's job, that dispute will likely be decided in the state Supreme Court.

The State: How 2016 in South Carolina stacks up, by the numbers

<http://www.thestate.com/living/article123307399.html>

Here, some of the most interesting numbers that made headlines in 2016...

NOTE: 1 Remaining board member of the troubled Richland County Recreation Commission, after four resigned and two were fired by S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley. \$151,800 James Brown III's annual salary before he retired as director of the Richland County Recreation Commission amid a storm of lawsuits, investigations and accusations of corruption, sexual harassment, nepotism and other inappropriate conduct.

General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Emily Anna was strangled to death by her boyfriend. Now, her mother is pushing to make strangulation a felony in S.C.

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/emily-anna-was-strangled-to-death-by-her-boyfriend-now/article_a8f85550-c920-11e6-a7c2-d7de3fa2c3d4.html

Glenn Smith

Emily Joy knew something terrible had happened when she heard that police were on their way to the home of her daughter's boyfriend in rural Clinton. The couple had a stormy relationship, and Joy was hoping her daughter would leave the young man. She arrived to find paramedics huddled around 19-year-old Emily Anna. But it was too late. Her daughter was already gone. Her boyfriend had strangled her to death in her car with a USB computer cord during an argument. Emily Anna's friends would later tell Joy that her daughter's boyfriend had choked her before, just a few days before the June 2013 killing — a red flag that went unnoticed, unpunished. That news stuck with Joy as she sat through a brutal trial and watched the boyfriend, Michael Beaty, get sentenced to life in prison for Emily Anna Asbill's murder. Joy has now made it her mission to raise awareness about non-fatal strangulation, a key indicator of escalating violence in a relationship. She is also traveling the state to build support for a proposed bill that would make strangulation a separate felony offense in South Carolina — as it is in 38 other states. It would be known as "EA's law," after her daughter.

Dylann Roof Case:

Associated Press: Dylann Roof won't work to spare his life in church massacre

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=9ROBvruj

Jeffrey Collins

Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof says he won't call any witnesses or present evidence while representing himself during the punishment phase of his death penalty trial, but he is working hard to keep secret potentially embarrassing evidence about himself and his family. Just exactly what that evidence is remains a mystery. Roof, the judge and prosecutors carefully tiptoed around describing it during a hearing Wednesday. The judge has indicated that it may be allowed during the penalty phase of the trial, which starts next week. The same jurors who convicted Roof earlier this month of killing nine black church members in a racially motivated attack will hear from Roof as well as testimony from the families of victims. At the end of the penalty phase, the panel will decide whether Roof, who is white, should be put to death or spend the rest of his life in prison.

Associated Press: The Latest: Dylann Roof won't submit evidence to spare life

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=8ZnCQWKQ

SC State Wire

Dylann Roof has told a judge he plans on calling no witnesses and presenting no evidence to try to convince a jury to spare his life for killing nine black Charleston church worshippers in a hate crime. Roof told U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel at a hearing Wednesday he still plans to act as his own lawyer when the penalty phase of his federal death penalty trial begins next Tuesday. Gergel told Roof to talk to his grandfather, who is a lawyer, and other family members one last time. He says Roof can change his mind and bring back his attorneys up until opening statements next week. There

also was argument from Roof about mystery evidence, like a photograph prosecutors want to show and video from jailhouse visits. Specifics were not given in court.

The State: Roof insists on representing himself, will offer no witnesses during sentencing trial

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article123294894.html>

Cynthia Roldan and John Monk

Convicted Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof told a federal judge that he intends to continue to represent himself as he faces the death penalty when his hate-crime trial continues Tuesday. The Columbia-area man went before federal judge Richard Gergel Wednesday morning to hammer out details of the next phase of the trial in preparation for the sentencing phase, which is scheduled to begin on Jan. 3. Roof was found guilty on all 33 counts filed against him in the first phase of the trial on Dec. 15. While handcuffed and wearing a striped, white and gray jail jumpsuit, Roof addressed Gergel over several matters, including to reiterate that he plans to represent himself during the sentencing phase of the trial. Renowned anti-death penalty attorney David Bruck represented Roof during the guilt phase. Gergel once again told Roof he has until Tuesday to change his mind and have Bruck represent him. Gergel stressed that Roof should be open to listening to the advice of his family and his lawyers, and again admonished his decision to represent himself.

Post and Courier: Dylann Roof says he doesn't plan to call witnesses, offer evidence in his defense

http://www.postandcourier.com/church_shooting/dylann-roof-says-he-doesn-t-plan-to-call-witnesses/article_a649df56-ccfc-11e6-a557-ff991cd78c25.html

Glenn Smith and Abigail Darlington

With his life on the line, Dylann Roof has no plans to call witnesses or introduce evidence in his defense during the penalty phase of his hate crimes trial, where he faces a possible death sentence for killing nine black worshippers at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church. The 22-year-old white supremacist made the pronouncement Wednesday morning after reaffirming his decision to represent himself during the proceedings, which begin Jan. 3. He said he intends to make opening and closing statements but has no plans beyond that to present a defense. "As far as I know, I am not intending to offer any evidence at all or call any witnesses whatsoever," he told the judge in a flat voice. Roof told U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel that he wanted to make his plans clear for the prosecution's sake. "Don't do them any favors," the judge replied. "They aren't going to do you any."

Opinion/Editorial:

The Herald: Deserving inmates can get a second chance <http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/editorials/article123368739.html>

<http://www.heraldonline.com/opinion/editorials/article123368739.html>

Editorial Board

We can understand the anger of 6th Circuit Solicitor Randy Newman at the commuted sentence of a man he worked five years to put behind bars. Nonetheless, we think the hundreds of reduced sentences and outright pardons granted by President Barack Obama during his days in office represent a necessary correction to what amounted to both unfair and unnecessarily long sentences for many. During his presidency, Obama has pardoned or commuted the sentences of 1,324 individuals, among the largest uses of presidential power to extend mercy in modern history and more than the last 11 presidents combined. On one day, Dec. 20, the president issued 78 pardons and commuted the sentences of 153 inmates, the largest number of commutations in a single day. Among those whose sentences were cut was Marcus Emile Franklin, 40, of Chester. He was sentenced in 2006 to 20 years in prison followed by 10 years' probation for his involvement in a crack distribution scheme in York and Chester counties.

North Carolina News:

Charlotte Observer: Mecklenburg jailers hold some teens in solitary confinement. Critics call that torture.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/article123298339.html>

Ames Alexander

In a windowless cell at Mecklenburg County's Jail North, Davius Boyd spent 23 hours alone each day awaiting trial. He was allowed no visitors, no phone calls home, no library books. He was 16 when the punishment began. In a letter to the Observer, Boyd said that during his year at the jail, he spent a total of 80 days in solitary confinement – and started contemplating suicide. "I began to suffer depression, showing lots of anger, loneliness," wrote Boyd, who was later convicted of rape, robbery and burglary and sent to state prison, where he remains. In most states, people Boyd's age would rarely face solitary confinement – a punishment that research shows can cause or worsen mental illness. President Obama in January banned solitary for youths in federal custody. Five months later, North Carolina officials announced a similar ban in the state prison system. But in Charlotte, at the sprawling jail off Statesville Road, the practice is still used for dozens of youths who fight, steal or repeatedly break other jail rules. Jail officials say they need to separate troublemakers from the general population.

South Carolina News:

Post and Courier: Boeing delivers record number of Dreamliners in 2016, but Delta cancellation dents order book

http://www.postandcourier.com/business/boeing-delivers-record-number-of-dreamliners-in-but-delta-cancellation/article_e3e55878-cd0f-11e6-a1be-b718023d63e7.html

David Wren

Boeing Co. will finish 2016 with a record number of deliveries of its 787 Dreamliner commercial jet, but the aerospace giant's order book took a hit this week when Delta Airlines announced it has canceled an order for 18 of the wide-bodies. Boeing, which is on a production break through the first of the year, delivered 137 Dreamliners to 31 customers in 2016. That total edges the previous record of 135 deliveries set in 2015. All told, Boeing has delivered 500 Dreamliners to 48 operators since 2011. Delta's announcement was expected because the airline has invested heavily in planes built by Boeing competitor Airbus. Delta inherited the Dreamliner order when it merged with Northwest Airlines in 2008. The order had a book value of \$4 billion, although airlines typically negotiate much lower prices. Scott Hamilton, editor of aerospace publication Leeham News and Comment, said Delta had deferred delivery of the Dreamliners past 2020 before ultimately cancelling the order.

The State: Wrecks on SC roads kill 9 during Christmas weekend <http://www.thestate.com/news/state/south-carolina/article123351754.html>

Jane Moon Dial

South Carolina Department of Public Safety officials said there were nine road deaths reported during the Christmas holiday weekend. Officials said seven of the deaths occurred on U.S. routes, S.C. roads and secondary roads, one happened on a county road and another happened on an interstate. In four of the deaths, officials said a seat belt was not used. Three people killed were wearing seat belts. One person killed was a pedestrian, and another was an unhelmeted motorcyclist. As of Tuesday, 968 people have died on state highways, compared to 976 highway deaths during the same time period in 2015. Of the 630 motor-vehicle occupants who have died in 2016, 321 were not wearing seat belts. When it comes to pedestrians, 135 have been killed compared to 124 during the same time period in 2015. About 135 motorcyclists have died compared to 140 this time in 2015. Twenty-five bicyclists have **died in 2016 compared to 16 this time last year.**

Island Packet: Beaufort County traffic wrecks claimed 29 lives in 2016, up from previous years <http://www.islandpacket.com/news/local/community/beaufort-news/article123356214.html>

It seems 2016 has been an unusually deadly year for drivers in Beaufort County. Twenty-nine people have been killed in motor vehicle accidents since Jan. 1, up from 18 in 2015 and 23 in 2014, according to statistics released Wednesday by the S.C. Department of Public Safety. In 2013, just 13 people died on Beaufort County roads. Jasper County highways also experienced more fatalities —

23 in 2016, up from 14, 15 and 8 in the three previous years.

Local News:

Associated Press: Adams, chief prosecutor for the 10th circuit, dies at age 49

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=787kmP9G

SC State Wire

Chrissy Adams, the chief prosecutor for Anderson and Oconee counties since 2005, has died after a long battle with cancer. She was 49. Solicitor-elect David Wagner said Wednesday that Adams died Tuesday evening at home with her family. "She fought this battle with the determination, courage and dignity we've all come to expect from her," Wagner, a longtime deputy solicitor who will take office in January, said in a statement. She "left a lasting contribution and impact on our community, and I was proud to call her a colleague and a friend." Voters first elected Adams, a Republican, solicitor of the 10th judicial circuit in November 2004. After graduating from Clemson University in 1989 and the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1994, Adams began her career as an assistant prosecutor in Charleston. She worked as an assistant prosecutor for the 13th circuit, which includes Greenville and Pickens counties, after moving to Seneca in 1997. Two years later, she became deputy solicitor for Oconee County in the 10th circuit.

Independent Mail: Solicitor Chrissy Adams dies; service times set

<http://www.independentmail.com/story/news/local/2016/12/28/solicitor-chrissy-adams-dies-after-battle-cancer/95905526/>

Nikie Mayo and Mike Ellis

Chrissy Adams, the 10th Judicial Circuit solicitor, has died after a long battle with cancer. Her husband, Eddie Adams, said early Wednesday that his wife died shortly after 11 p.m. Tuesday at home, surrounded by her family and friends. She was 49. "This has been a long and hard road for her and for us," he said. "She fought with her spirit as hard as she could, every minute that she could, but her body couldn't fight any longer. She was dedicated to her work, her family and her boys. We know she is in a better place." Eddie Adams said a wake for his wife is for planned Friday, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Greenville. A funeral will follow at 11 a.m. Friday. She will be laid to rest Saturday in Charleston, he said. Chrissy Adams was first found to have Hodgkin's lymphoma in October 2003, her husband said. In 2004, she began campaigning for the solicitor's post.

Associated Press: Ex-GOP candidate arrested in KY says he was rescuing horses

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=cGXopWmF

SC State Wire

A former South Carolina Republican congressional candidate is accused of stealing horses in rural Kentucky earlier this month, but he contends he was actually rescuing the horses. Charleston media outlets report that Curtis Bostic, 55, was arrested Dec. 18 near Jackson, Kentucky, and charged with felony unlawful taking of livestock. He was released on \$2,500 bail the next day. The former Charleston County councilman said Tuesday he was in the Appalachian foothills on a "humanitarian horse-rescue effort." He didn't go into details on the pending case. A court date is set for Jan. 23.

Associated Press: Girl pinned by 1,500-pound boulder is freed, but badly hurt

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=J02JULMi

SC State Wire

Authorities say it took the strength of a half-dozen people and a pulley system to move a 1,500-pound boulder after the massive rock rolled onto a 15-year-old South Carolina girl, pinning her. The Daily Tribune News reports that Brianne Griffith was visiting her grandparents' home in White, Georgia, on Christmas Day and playing on the rock in the backyard when it rolled onto her. Bartow County EMS spokesman Brad Cothran tells WSB-TV that her right ankle was trapped beneath the boulder. Cothran says the girl was flown by helicopter to Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, where she had surgery.

Her grandmother Marjorie Duff tells the Cartersville newspaper that Brianne has some badly broken bones and is facing several more surgeries. Authorities say she was visiting from Mount Croghan, South Carolina.

Associated Press: Charlotte police find body of missing woman, look for killer

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=rGU8oLaz

SC State Wire

Charlotte police say officers found the body of a woman reported missing two weeks ago and are searching for her killer. Local media outlets report Nia Hantzopoulos' body was found Tuesday after her car was found at a shopping center in Ballantyne, less than five miles from where she was last seen Dec. 15. It's unclear where she was found. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police are not releasing details. An arrest warrant has been issued for a 44-year-old man. The medical examiner is still determining how she died. Family members told WSOC-TV that Hantzopoulos was on her way to sell jewelry at a flea market in Fort Mill, South Carolina, when she went missing.

Sun News: New schools, transgender clash and debuts highlight 2016 education news in Horry County

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/education/article123279494.html>

Christian Boschult

A lot happened in Horry County education in 2016. First Floor Energy began building Horry County School's five new energy-positive buildings, but extra work and delays have caused the district to consider other options for one school that probably will not be ready in time for the fall 2017 school year. At Coastal Carolina University, Clery Act data showed that punishments doled out for drug and alcohol offenses more than doubled in six years, outpacing student growth. And at Horry Georgetown Technical College, President Neyle Wilson announced his retirement and the new International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach opened to the public...

President-elect Trump News:

Associated Press: Trump accuses Obama of 'inflammatory' roadblocks

<http://bigstory.ap.org/a83b4c7cc15646ba90ccfef944ee8beb>

President-elect Donald Trump accused President Barack Obama on Wednesday of throwing up "inflammatory" roadblocks during the transition of power and his administration of treating Israel with "total disdain," further straining the veneer of civility between the incoming and outgoing leaders. Although Trump didn't detail his complaints in his morning broadsides on Twitter, the president-elect has made it clear that it didn't sit well with him when Obama recently boasted that he would have won the election if he'd been running. Trump's largely respectful tone about Obama since the election evaporated in his latest tweets. "Doing my best to disregard the many inflammatory President O statements and roadblocks," Trump tweeted. "Thought it was going to be a smooth transition - NOT! "Trump also took direct issue with the Obama administration's decision to let a U.N. Security Council resolution critical of Israel pass. "We cannot continue to let Israel be treated with such total disdain and disrespect," he said in a two-part tweet. "They used to have a great friend in the U.S., but ... not anymore. The beginning of the end was the horrible Iran deal, and now this (U.N.)! Stay strong Israel, January 20th is fast approaching!"

TIME Magazine: Rudy Giuliani: Donald Trump's Outsider Cabinet Is Shaking D.C. Up

<http://time.com/4618605/rudy-giuliani-donald-trump-cabinet-outsiders/>

America is already gearing up for one of the most exciting civic ceremonies in the world: the inauguration of our next president. But even as the eagerness for that day builds, we ought to stop and recognize the history unfolding before our eyes. By almost any measure, President-elect Donald J. Trump is leading one of the most extraordinary presidential transition periods of all time. One of President-elect Trump's most historic characteristics is his complete outsider status. On the day President-elect Trump takes office, he will be the first individual ever to serve as president who did

not have any previous U.S. military or government experience. This occurrence is literally unprecedented, and a very clear sign that he holds a completely new perspective on the real world, will judge people on results and not rhetoric, and will embrace a practical approach to solving our greatest challenges. President-elect Trump is ready to get things done, and he won't be held back by old Beltway traditions and loyalties. President-elect Trump is also rapidly assembling an incredibly talented Cabinet to help him implement his America First agenda.

NOTE: He has chosen, among others, multiple CEOs (Linda McMahon, Steven Mnuchin, Andy Puzder, Wilbur Ross, Rex Tillerson), some of the most distinguished generals of our time (General John Kelly, General James Mattis, Lieutenant General Michael Flynn), a renowned pediatric surgeon (Dr. Ben Carson), and highly respected state governors (Nikki Haley and Rick Perry).

Untied Nations News:

Associated Press: In parting shot, Kerry tears into Israel over settlements

<http://bigstory.ap.org/746682ae2b1a49299487c4471982f4fd>

Secretary of State John Kerry tore into Israel on Wednesday for settlement-building, accusing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of dragging Israel away from democracy and forcefully rejecting the notion that America had abandoned Israel with a controversial U.N. vote. Netanyahu accused the Obama administration of a biased bid to blame Israel for failure to reach a peace deal. In a farewell speech, Kerry laid out a vision for peace that he won't be in office to implement, but that the U.S. hoped might be heeded even after President Barack Obama leaves office. He staunchly defended Obama's move last week to allow the U.N. Security Council to declare Israeli settlements illegal, the spark that set off an extraordinary and deepening diplomatic spat between the U.S. and its closest Mideast ally. "If the choice is one state, Israel can either be Jewish or democratic, it cannot be both, and it won't ever really be at peace," Kerry said in a speech that ran more than an hour, a comprehensive airing of grievances that have built up in the Obama administration over eight years but were rarely, until this month, discussed publicly.

Associated Press: Israeli PM calls Kerry speech a 'deep disappointment'

<http://bigstory.ap.org/b49124d434a04ec4bc55eb9ddfe329fe>

Israel's prime minister decried Secretary of State John Kerry's Mideast policy speech as a "deep disappointment" on Wednesday and vowed to work with the incoming Trump administration to contain the fallout from last week's U.N. resolution calling Israeli settlements illegal. Netanyahu's angry statement, delivered at a late-night news conference shortly after Kerry's address, capped a tumultuous week in which years of tense relations with President Barack Obama boiled over. "We are not about to be swayed by a mistaken policy that could cause big, big damage," Netanyahu said, speaking in English. "Israelis do not need to be lectured about the importance of peace by foreign leaders." In a farewell speech at the State Department, Kerry outlined his vision for Mideast peace. While his speech included criticism of Palestinian violence and incitement, his strongest words were aimed at Israel, and its policy of settling its citizens in occupied territories claimed by the Palestinians. He said the continued settlement growth is threatening the possibility of a two-state solution, which Netanyahu has endorsed.

World News:

Associated Press: Man suspected of ties to Berlin attacker detained in Germany

<http://bigstory.ap.org/527755640f744f4f9e9ee0e8819523fc>

German prosecutors said Wednesday that they have detained a Tunisian man they think may have been involved in last week's truck attack on a Christmas market in Berlin. The 40-year-old, who wasn't identified, was detained in Berlin during a search of his home and business, federal prosecutors said. The man's telephone number was saved in the cellphone of Anis Amri, a fellow Tunisian believed to have driven a truck into the market on Dec. 19. Amri, 24, was killed in a shootout with Italian police in a suburb of Milan early Friday. Of the new suspect, prosecutors said in a statement that "further

investigations indicate that he may have been involved in the attack."Twelve people died and dozens more were injured in the truck attack. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility.

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