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From:

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Sent:

Sunday, September 26, 2010 1:08 PM

To:

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Subject:

Fw: (AP) Israeli settlement slowdown to end at midnight

From: Deyo, Justin A To: NEWS-Mahogany Cc: DeBaere, Judes E

Sent: Sun Sep 26 13:05:29 2010

Subject: (AP) Israeli settlement slowdown to end at midnight

REVAVA (AP) - Dozens of Jewish settlers broke ground on a new daycare center deep inside the West Bank to celebrate the end of the government's 10-month-old construction slowdown at midnight- symbolically renewing settlement activity that threatens to derail peace talks with the Palestinians. Some 2000 people headed to another nearby settlement for a larger rally, where activists released 2000 blue and white balloons- the colors of the Israeli flag- into the air at sundown. The balloons were meant to symbolize the 2000 apartments that settlers say they are ready to be built immediately. The festivities went ahead despite Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's call for the settlers to show "restraint" as the curbs are lifted.

Justin Deyo U.S. Department of State Operations Center (S/ES-O) 202-647-1512