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Albanese Rejects Trump Talks on Palestinian Statehood Decision

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Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has firmly rejected suggestions that he would consult former U.S. President Donald Trump before Australia decides on recognizing Palestinian statehood, underlining the nation's sovereign and independent foreign policy approach. In media remarks, Albanese emphasized that no external pressure, including from the United States, would determine Australia's timing or conditions for recognition. He asserted that the government will act strictly in alignment with national interests and strategic considerations.

Throughout the press interactions, Albanese reiterated Australia's consistent support for a two-state solution. He specified that formal recognition of Palestinian statehood would be contingent upon ensuring the demilitarization of the Palestinian Authority and the

exclusion of Hamas, which Australia designates as a terrorist organization. These conditions align with the framework articulated by Canada's Prime Minister, encouraging reforms and security guarantees. Albanese stated that Australia awaits credible progress from the Palestinian Authority, particularly President Mahmoud Abbas's commitments on elections and reducing Hamas's role, before making a decision.

Albanese's position unfolds against the backdrop of growing international momentum toward conditional recognition of Palestine. France, the United Kingdom, and Canada have indicated intentions to potentially recognize Palestinian statehood at the United Nations General Assembly in September, subject to reforms and credible security assurances. Albanese confirmed that while Australia has engaged in discussions with counterparts, including UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, its decision will be measured and guided by tangible progress rather than symbolic gestures.

On the humanitarian front, the Albanese government announced an additional AUD 20 million in aid to Gaza on August 4, bringing its total assistance since October 2023 to over AUD 130 million. The funding is designated for essential food, medical, and nutritional support delivered through international humanitarian agencies and partnerships. This move reinforces Australia's commitment to alleviating civilian suffering in Gaza amid widespread international concern over the blockade and worsening humanitarian conditions.

Shadow Foreign Affairs Minister Michaelia Cash criticized the government's stance, arguing that recognition risks rewarding terrorism while Hamas remains active. She called for stronger condemnation of the group's impact on Gaza's humanitarian situation during media interviews.