Leaders warn Trump against naming Jerusalem Israel’s capital

A Palestinian boy with a national flag.AFPAHMAD GHARABLI

International leaders warned U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday that he risked outraging Muslims and jeopardising peace efforts if he recognised Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and moved the U.S. embassy there.

Mr. Trump delayed a controversial decision on the ancient holy city on Monday, following frantic public warnings from allies and private phone calls between world leaders.

Warnings multiplied on Tuesday, with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoan warning Mr. Trump in a speech that the status of Jerusalem is a “red line” for Muslims and could even prompt Turkey to cut ties with Israel. The Arab League, which held a delegates-level meeting at its Cairo headquarters, warned the U.S. against any such move, telling that it would constitute “clear aggression” against Arabs.

“If it were to happen,” said Arab League chief Ahmed Aboul Gheit, it would have “possible negative consequences not only for the situation in Palestine but also for the Arab and Islamic region”.

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas spoke with French President Emmanuel Macron by phone on the issue on Tuesday, official news agency WAFA said.

Nabil Shaath, an adviser to Mr. Abbas, told journalists that any such decision “totally destroys any chance that he will play a role as an honest broker”.

Later on Tuesday, Mr. Trump called Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas, a Palestinian official said, without providing any further details.

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