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Subject: PLO: Israel must halt settlements for talks to resume

RAMALLAH (Reuters) - Israel must halt settlement building on occupied land if peace talks are to resume, a senior Palestine Liberation Official said after a meeting of the body's executive committee. "The leadership confirms that the resumption of talks requires tangible steps, the first of them a freeze on settlements," Yasser Abed Rabbo said after a meeting in Ramallah. "The Palestinian leadership holds Israel responsible for obstructing the negotiations," he added, reading a statement issued after the meeting.