Trump unloads on United Nations members after stunning anti-Israel vote as he says 'they cause problems' and are 'not living up' to potential

December 28, 2016

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The Daily Mail

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4071954/Trump-unloads-United-Nations-following-controversial-anti-Israel-vote-says-cause-problems-not-living-potential.html>

President-elect Donald Trump had strong words for the United Nations on Wednesday, five days after a landmark Security Council vote condemning the continued construction of Israeli Jewish settlements in the disputed West bank territory.

'The UN has such tremendous potential. Not living up to its potential,' Trump said in a brief statement to the press outside his Mar-a-Lago resort club in Palm Beach, Florida. 'There is such tremendous potential, but it is not living up.'

'When do you see the united Nations solving problems?' he asked. 'They don't. They cause problems.'

'So if it lives up to the potential it's a great thing. And if it doesn't it's a waste of time and money.'

Trump said President Barack Obama had called him earlier in the day but the current and future president only 'had a very general conversation. Very, very nice.'

He didn't elaborate on any discussions the two may have had about a lengthy afternoon speech in which Secretary of State John Kerry defended Obama's decision to withhold the traditional U.S. veto and allow the contentious UN resolution to pass unopposed.

'I think the secretary's speech really spoke for itself,' Trump said in response to a question about Obama's phone call.

The president-elect's remarks were billed as a statement about the economy. He led with an announcement that two companies would be hiring a total of 8,000 Americans on an unspecified timetable.