

FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

February 9, 2021



Will President Biden get trapped by failed Israel-Palestinian conflict policies of the past?

Dear Friend of FLAME:

While Israel has for decades counted Joe Biden as a friend, Israel supporters have known since his election as President that Biden himself is not the only concern. His party has gained voices opposing Israel's interests, and Biden Administration staff include both Obama-era "Israel skeptics," as well as some frankly hostile to the Jewish state.

Last week, one of Biden's top diplomats raised red flags and fears that we may return to the faulty and failed thinking that has ensured no progress in resolving the Israel-Palestinian conflict for the last 27 years.

In a speech to the UN Security Council Open Debate on the Situation in the Middle East, Ambassador Richard Mills, Acting Representative of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, laid out some of the administration's "new" principles and policies regarding the conflict.

In fact, many of Mills' tenets demonstrate that the Biden Administration may be regressing.

Firstly, during his remarks, Ambassador Mills refers to a "two-state solution" four times. However, what is noticeable is that he has dropped the reference to "two states for two peoples" that was used under the Obama Administration, not least by then-President Obama himself.

The lack of "two peoples" endorses the Palestinian narrative—connoting that the Jews are a religion and do not constitute a people, are not deserving of a national homeland and have no history in the region. It's why numerous Palestinian leaders have rejected peace, since it means recognizing Israel as the national homeland of the Jewish people.

Ambassador Mills continued his speech by saying "President Biden has been clear in his intent to restore U.S. assistance programs that support economic development and humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people and to take steps to re-open diplomatic missions that were closed by the last U.S. administration. We

HOME

SUBSCRIBE

DONATE

PR FOR ISRAEL

HOTLINE ARCHIVE

ABOUT

CONTACT US

THIS MONTH'S AD
APPEARED IN
PUBLICATIONS
REACHING 10 MILLION
READERS

YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

No Fool's Deal with Iran

Any new agreement with Iran must halt its development of weapons of mass destruction and its sowing of terror against the U.S. and our Middle East allies.

While the Biden administration wants to negotiate with Iran, it must avoid the errors of the 2015 deal, which allowed Iran to show, grow & push its nuclear hands, and failed to stop Iran's development of long-range missiles and its intelligence against Israel and Arab Gulf allies.

What are the facts?

As the world's greatest exporter of terror—and militarily anti-American—Iran stands as one of the greatest threats to our United States and the global community. This danger is underscored by Iran's threats and outright attacks on its Muslim Arab neighbors, as well as its ballistic missile program. Nations in the Arab Gulf, for example, the profile in the recent Iran's menacing drive to forcibly its neighbors with nuclear weapons. While a nuclear-armed Iran, any U.S. strategy to that end must address the full range of Iran's threats.

Why the First Deal Failed. The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) fell short on four key points. First, it failed to prevent Iran's cheating, lacking a system of immediate, on-demand inspections. Western intelligence showed the Islamic Republic had not agreed to just nuclear weapons programs and its continued nuclear development. Second, Iran continued to work hard to build its nuclear arsenal. Third, the JCPOA failed to stop Iran from its U.S. to step up its colonization attempts in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Iran also continued to threaten Israel, from its border, attack U.S. vessels in the Gulf of Oman and export missile to its proxy, Hezbollah, and other military. Third, the JCPOA did nothing to stop Iran's technological missile programs, which will allow it to attack nations thousands of miles from Tehran with nuclear missiles. Finally, most tragically, the JCPOA failed to halt Iran's nuclear weapons development, but only did it—with full reliance of countries after 15 years—only just come to an end.

Plans to persuade Iran to make a deal. Experience shows that Iran responds to pressure. Under that, Biden and his team are now the negotiating advantage created by new realities in the region. Current negotiations occurred centuries on Iran have already stopped its economy. Measures taken to deter Iran's nuclear and missile arms have increased the pressure. Both Iran and the U.S. have increased cyberattacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, and by the elimination of its enrichment in its new infrastructure, such as the construction of new civilian nuclear power plants, and the maintenance of Iran's nuclear program. Regular General Business Talks, in addition, Iran since 2017 has

attached over 1,000 Iranian and Hezbollah military targets in Syria, and has also put Israeli air and missile attacks with Gulf Arab states that also oppose Iran.

These conditions give the U.S. responsibility to negotiate its negotiations with Iran. Conversely, we are under very pressure to make a deal. The U.S. should only agree to negotiate these conditions to ensure for major, verifiable behavior changes from Iran that are more than mere promises.

What the next deal should encompass. Any agreement with Iran should require serious to proceed positively. The Islamic Republic is dedicated to spreading a nuclear state, including globally. Iran's steps will be visible. Thus, the next deal should insist that Iran agree to verifiable, immediate halt to its nuclear weapons program. The Biden administration should also ensure of international ballistic missiles, as required by the 2015 UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

The U.S. is under zero pressure to make a deal with Iran.

Iran has more in development of its nuclear weapons, as required by the 2015 UN Security Council Resolution 2231. Finally, Iran must halt subversion of its neighbors and other forms of terrorism. It must move to ending its foreign terrorism, stop its recruitment in regional conflicts and end the violent export of extremist Shia revolutionary ideology. Nuclear issues, the U.S. should involve our regional allies most concerned by Iran—Israel and Saudi Arabia—and Arab Muslim nations—in formulating the next deal. In addition, unlike the JCPOA, any agreement with Iran should be certified by Congress.

Strong Iran does not solve the problem—the next deal has to stop. President Biden has the opportunity to reverse the greatest threat ever to the Middle East. It is absolutely urgent that American and the world take advantage of new global realities—such as the Abraham Accords and Iran's current economy and political collapse—as well as a deal that truly makes the region and the world a safer place.

FLAME
Facts and Logic About the Middle East
P.O. Box 5401, Berkeley, CA 94705
www.flame.org
©2021 FLAME. All Rights Reserved.

FLAME is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its purpose is to educate the public about the Middle East conflict and to promote peace and understanding between the peoples of the Middle East. FLAME is not a religious organization and does not endorse any religious or political position. All opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of FLAME.

To receive free FLAME updates, visit our website: www.factsandlogic.org



DONATE NOW

IF YOU SUPPORT
PUBLISHING FLAME'S
BOLD PR MESSAGES,
PLEASE HELP US!!

FLAME is the only organization
that defends Israel with paid

do not view these steps as a favor to the Palestinian leadership. U.S. assistance benefits millions of ordinary Palestinians.”

Unfortunately, in a non-democratic kleptocracy, like the Palestinian Authority (PA), steps restoring such aid will almost solely benefit PA leaders. The leadership has shown little to no interest in reform or ensuring that aid does not reach terrorists or the encouragement of terror through incitement.

The least Team Biden could do is make restoration of aid contingent on the Palestinians ceasing payments to terrorists and anti-Semitic incitement in Palestinian schools and mosques.

Violent incitement remains a major obstacle in the conflict because Palestinians are daily subjected to a torrent of hate against Israel and the Jewish people, and glorification of murder. Only days ago, the Palestinian Authority launched a project to honor all Palestinians who have died as so-called “Martyrs” since 1917. The PA will eventually plant 35,000 olive trees throughout the PA areas with each tree named after a “Martyr.” The PA defines “Martyrs” as all terrorists killed while attacking Israelis—including suicide bombers and mass murderers.

So, the Biden Administration means to return all funding and reopen all diplomatic missions without requiring anything in return. Whatever one might think of steps the Trump Administration took against the Palestinians, they provide the new administration powerful leverage. In diplomacy, leverage is everything and should not be wasted—especially on a Palestinian leadership that has dug its heels in for decades, insisting they deserve the world’s sympathy and assistance.

What Mills’ speech most lacks, however, are signs he understands the roots of the conflict, and, above all, a strategy for ending it that goes beyond the exhausted policies of the past.

Indeed, the issue has never been about a Palestinian state. If it were, any of several Palestinian leaders could have said yes to numerous Israeli and international offers over the years—whether in 1937, 1947, 1967, 2000 or 2008—and today there would be a Palestinian state and no conflict.

Likewise, the problem has never been Israel’s *acceptance* of a Palestinian state: It has always been a Palestinian acceptance of a Jewish state alongside its own. Mills’ platitudes fail to address this reality.

However, if the U.S. goal truly is a Palestinian state, this would require an Israeli withdrawal from territory it now controls. Unfortunately, history shows that when Israel withdraws from territory, as it has done on almost every border, it is met with terror, violence and bloodshed. Mr. Mills did not address this inevitability.

Nor did Mills address Palestinian rejectionism of the Jewish state and of all peace deals to date. Until the Palestinian pattern is broken, the conflict will continue. Clearly, an effort to this end needs to be a focal point of the Biden Administration’s strategy over the coming four years.

Finally, while Ambassador Mills mentioned and welcomed the Abraham Accords and normalization agreements between Israel and four Arab nations, this appears to be an afterthought. “The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians

editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

DONATE NOW »



SUBSCRIBE FREE

**FLAME'S WEEKLY
HOTLINE E-
NEWSLETTER**



FLAME's Hotline e-newsletter keeps you up to date on the most important pro-Israel advocacy issues and features our choice of the week's most informative and thought-provoking article on Israel and the Middle East. If you only subscribe to one pro-Israel news service, make it the FLAME Hotline.

SUBSCRIBE NOW »

may not be the major fault line in the Middle East, but its resolution nevertheless would significantly benefit the region as a whole,” Mills stated.

It is unclear how the region would “significantly benefit” from a Palestinian state. This seems to be another anachronistic assumption whose truth has been so hollowed out as to be meaningless in today’s Middle East. Why would the region or the international community benefit from a Palestinian state whose policy is recalcitrant and antagonistic towards its neighbor?

Mills also leaves open the critical question of what will happen to Gaza, run by genocidal jihadists, intent on violently destroying Israel. The complete omission of Hamas from this speech is telling, yet it remains a central issue on the ground.

Secondly, there appears to be a return to “soft linkage”—whereby the Israel-Palestinian conflict is overburdened with the promise of pacifying the region. This is patently false—unsupported by facts on the ground—and turns the current successful paradigm for Israeli-Arab peace on its head. The Abraham Accord normalization agreements should have vanquished any such “linkage” to the dustbin of history.

Ambassador Mills’ comments reflect not only a return to failed, unimaginative diplomacy, they could potentially turn back the clock on the Israel-Palestinian conflict and make the region less stable and peaceful.

I hope you will point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that the region is safer because the Palestinians can no longer wield a veto on agreements between Israel and the Arab world. Handing this veto back to them will not benefit the region—it will harm it, especially when unity between Israel and pragmatic Sunni nations is creating a bulwark against the nuclear weapons aspirations of Iran.

We can only hope that when Richard Mills is relieved from his role by confirmation of U.N. Ambassador-designate Linda Thomas-Greenfield, greater clarity and realism will guide U.S. foreign policy.

I hope you’ll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to forward this message to friends, visit FLAME’s lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME’s new hasbarah campaign—which exposes the dangerous folly of the U.S. trying to entice Iran back into the failed “Iran Deal” of 2015.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. The Biden administration and many members of Congress seem determined to reengage with Iran over the coming year—and some reports indicate a willingness to return to the failed “Iran Nuclear Deal” without preconditions. As you know, this would be disastrous—for the U.S. and for Israel and our other allies in the Middle East. The Iran Deal gave the Islamic Republic a roadmap to nuclear weapons and did nothing to check their jihadi activities, including development of long-range ballistic missiles. To warn Americans of this danger, FLAME has

created a new *hasbarah* message called “[No Fool’s Deal with Iran.](#)” I hope you’ll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run in *USA Today*, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and other media nationwide. It spells out specifically the protections any new Iran deal must provide. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Harris and President Biden. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel’s behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME’s powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you’ll consider [giving a donation now](#), as you’re able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate](#) now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Biden stay committed to realistic policies in relation to Iran, Israel and the entire Middle East.

As of today, more than 15,000 Israel supporters receive the FLAME Hotline [at no charge](#) every week. If you’re not yet a subscriber, won’t you join us in receiving these timely updates, so you can more effectively tell the truth about Israel? Just go to [free subscription](#).



Facts and Logic
About the Middle East
PO Box 3460
Berkeley, CA 94703

Copyright 2021 FLAME. All rights reserved.

[Unsubscribe](#)