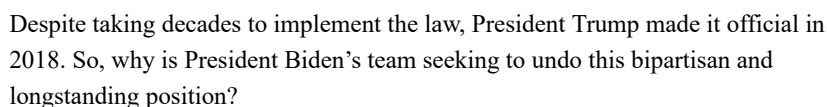
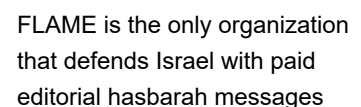


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Indeed, the Biden State Department appears hellbent on changing U.S. policy. Its persistence in trying to open a new diplomatic office in Jerusalem that would serve the stateless Palestinians appears to be the first salvo in a strike by the administration to extort Israel's new government and symbolically divide the Jewish state's capital city.

Since the Trump Administration directive in 2018, the U.S. moved its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This embassy services Jews and Arabs, both Israelis and those who define themselves as Palestinians.

There is absolutely no practical reason to open a consulate for Palestinians. According to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relationships, a diplomatic mission serves to represent the sending State in the receiving State; protect the interests of the sending State in the receiving State; negotiate with the receiving State; promote friendly relations with the receiving State; and develop their economic, cultural and scientific relations.

None of these things are possible because the Palestinians do not have a state, and Jerusalem is sovereign Israeli territory.

Rather, the State Department seems to want to recognize Palestinian claims to the city and place the division of it back on the table. If State is thinking practically—rather than *politichy*—they could open a mission in Ramallah where the Palestinian Authority resides (a scant 11.5 miles from Jerusalem) or Abu Dis, a Palestinian village just outside Jerusalem. When foreign dignitaries today meet with Palestinian officials like Mahmoud Abbas, they go to Ramallah.

Opening a new consulate for the Palestinians on Israeli territory would be a blow to Israel's prestige, standing and sovereignty. Even Israel's biggest critics on the international stage have not dared to open a new consulate in Jerusalem for the Palestinians. While some European nations have consulates that cater to Palestinians in the city, they predated the Jewish state.

Many of those in the Biden Administration and on the radical left know well that while the consulate is unnecessary, it would be a hugely symbolic blow to Israel. Not only would it place Jerusalem back on the negotiating table—and de facto recognize Palestinian claims to the city—it would symbolize the Jewish state's subservience.

However, neither the U.S.—nor any other nation—can open a diplomatic mission without the Israeli government's permission. Indeed, both Israel's current ruling coalition and opposition parties oppose the new consulate, and both Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister and Alternate Prime Minister Yair Lapid have expressed robust objection.

The only hope the U.S. has to open the consulate is to strongarm or bully Israel. While it is conceivably possible to open a mission, a host country has to agree to many bureaucratic and administrative measures—such as providing visas to officials who work there, beefing up security around the premises and agreeing to work with it on a day-to-day basis on diplomatic and consular issues.

Thus, while Israel itself should resist the opening of the consulate, all Americans who regard the State of Israel as a friend and an ally should call on the administration to end this pressure on the Jewish state. They should call out the

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.

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tiny but vocal extreme minority in the Democratic Party that sees this issue as a weak spot for undermining Israel, claiming the move is merely a bureaucratic necessity—which it clearly isn't.

In fact, opening a consulate would be the first domino toward full recognition of Palestinian claims to Jerusalem. As Israel's seat of government, removing a chunk of it will merely embolden the Palestinians.

When the Jewish state feels most isolated and threatened—as it did during the Obama Administration—Iran raced ahead in its nuclear weapons program, and Hamas and Hizbullah gathered strength. Mahmoud Abbas sat recalcitrant in Ramallah and watched mounting pressure on Israel, firm in the knowledge that he did not have to move an inch. The policy may have been a diplomatic failure for the U.S., but it was dangerous and bloody time for Israelis—with many Israelis murdered in terrorism, the effects of which are still felt.

I hope you will point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that if President Biden considers himself a friend of Israel—as he often states—he must resist pressure from within his administration to open this consulate in Jerusalem.

While some may see it as a relatively minor issue, for Israel it appears the start of reversing of Israel's claims to Jerusalem—erasing thousands of years of Jewish attachment to the city, a creeping recognition of Palestinian claims, and a message that the U.S. and Israel no longer stand side by side. In short, it would be a disaster for both nations.

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 “Ben & Jerry's Bad Taste” and those who support boycotts of the Jewish state.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson

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

P.S. As you know, Ben & Jerry's recently announced that it would cease its contract with its Israeli affiliate because the affiliate refused to stop selling the company's ice cream in the ancient Jewish territories of Judea and Samaria. This move, championed by the company's anti-Israel board chair, is just the latest attempt to boycott the Jewish state—joining the BDS movement—which some 35 U.S. states consider illegal and anti-Semitic. To clarify this issue for the American people—including many Jews—FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called “[Ben & Jerry's Bad Taste](#).” I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run soon in the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and other media nationwide. It spells out why Ben & Jerry's should be held to account for this attempt to delegitimize the State of Israel. 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 fighting anti-Semitic actions by individuals, politicians and commercial companies.

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](#).



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