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Moving the Embassy to Jerusalem Shows That the U.S. Is Committed to Peace



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Around the world, American ambassadors are stationed in national capitals. Israel's capital city is and always has been Jerusalem, and it is only logical that our top diplomat would represent U.S. interests in close proximity to the home of the prime minister, the parliament and every major government agency.

This is why Congress overwhelmingly passed bipartisan legislation in 1995 instructing the State Department to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. For two decades, U.S. presidents have kept this move on hold for fear of inflaming tensions in the region.

It is time for this to change.

The embassy would be located well inside the internationally recognized "green line." Those who reject locating an embassy in western Jerusalem — which has been a part of Israel since its inception and would continue to be under any conceivable peace deal — have not fully accepted the country's right to exist. America should never pander to this deluded worldview, which fuels the conflict by providing twisted hope to those who still seek Israel's destruction.

By moving our embassy to Jerusalem, we have an opportunity to demonstrate that far from retreating from the world and the region, we are as determined as ever to provide principled leadership, signaling to the Arab world and the Palestinian leadership that we are serious about ending this conflict, and that we expect them to accept Israel as a legitimate presence in the Middle East — a basic requirement for moving all parties on a path to peace, which will ultimately benefit Israelis and Palestinians alike.

It would signal that the U.S. is serious about ending this conflict, which would be a benefit to Israelis and Palestinians.