
Letter to the President from over 100 former American Ambassadors on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's Nuclear Program.

Dear Mr. President:

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran stands as a landmark agreement in deterring the proliferation of nuclear weapons. If properly implemented, this comprehensive and rigorously negotiated agreement can be an effective instrument in arresting Iran's nuclear program and preventing the spread of nuclear weapons in the volatile and vitally important region of the Middle East. Without your determination and the admirable work of Secretary of State Kerry and his team, this agreement would never have been reached.

As former American diplomats, we have devoted much of our lives to ensuring that the President had available the best possible diplomatic approaches to dealing with challenges to our nation's security, even while recognizing that a strong military is essential to help the President and the Congress to carry out their duties to protect the nation and its people. Effective diplomacy backed by credible defense will be critically important now, during the period of inspection and verification of Iran's compliance with the agreement.

The JCPOA touches on some of America's most important national objectives: non-proliferation and the security of our friends in the Middle East particularly Israel. Ensuring the cooperation and implementation of this agreement by a hostile nation will require constant, dedicated U.S. leadership and unflagging attention.

We recognize that the JCPOA is not a perfect or risk-free settlement of this problem. However, we believe without it, the risks to the security of the United States and our friends and allies would be far greater. We are satisfied that the JCPOA will put in place a set of constraints and inspections that can assure that Iran's nuclear program during the terms of the agreement will remain only for peaceful purposes and that no part of Iran is exempt from inspection. As with any negotiated settlement, the most durable and effective agreement is one that all sides will commit to and benefit from over the long term.

We support close Congressional involvement in the oversight, monitoring and enforcement of this agreement. Congress must be a full partner in its implementation and must evaluate carefully the value and feasibility of any alternative that would claim better to protect U.S. security and more effectively to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. In particular, Congress must give careful attention to evaluating whether alternatives would be more or less likely to narrow the options for resolving this issue without the use of force.

In our judgment the JCPOA deserves Congressional support and the opportunity to show it can work. We firmly believe that the most effective way to protect U.S. national security, and that of

our allies and friends is to ensure that tough-minded diplomacy has a chance to succeed before considering other more costly and risky alternatives.

With respect,

Amb. (ret.) Diego C. Asencio, *Ambassador to Colombia and Brazil*

Amb. (ret.) Adrian Basora, *Ambassador to Czechoslovakia*

J. Brian Atwood, *Administrator of USAID and Under Secretary of State for Management*

Amb. (ret.) William M. Bellamy, *Ambassador to Kenya*

Amb. (ret.) John R. Beyrle, *Ambassador to Russia and Bulgaria*

Amb. (ret.) James Keough Bishop, *Ambassador to Niger, Liberia and Somalia*

Amb. (ret.) Barbara K. Bodine, *Ambassador to Yemen*

Amb. (ret.) Avis Bohlen, *Assistant Secretary for Arms Control*

Amb. (ret.) Eric J. Boswell, *Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security*

Amb. (ret.) Stephen Bosworth, *Ambassador to the Republic of Korea*

Amb. (ret.) Richard Boucher, *Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia*

Amb. (ret.) Kenneth C. Brill, *Ambassador to the IAEA, UN and founder of the U.S. National Counterproliferation Center*

Amb. (ret.) Kenneth L. Brown, *Ambassador to Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana*

Amb. (ret.) A. Peter Burleigh, *Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations*

Amb. (ret.) Nicholas Burns, *Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, Ambassador to Greece and NATO*

Amb. (ret.) James F. Collins, *Ambassador to the Russian Federation and Ambassador at Large for the New Independent States*

Amb. (ret.) Edwin G. Corr, *Ambassador to Peru, Bolivia and El Salvador*

Amb. (ret.) William Courtney, Commissioner, *Bilateral Consultative Commission to implement the Threshold Test Ban Treaty*

Amb. (ret.) Ryan Crocker, *Ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Kuwait, and Lebanon*

Amb. (ret.) James B. Cunningham, *Ambassador to Israel, Afghanistan and the United Nations*

Amb. (ret.) Walter L. Cutler, *Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Tunisia*

Amb. (ret.) Ruth A. Davis, *Ambassador to the Republic of Benin and Director General of the Foreign Service*

Amb. (ret.) John Gunther Dean, *Ambassador to India*

Amb. (ret.) Shaun Donnelly, *Ambassador to Sri Lanka*

Amb. (ret.) Harriet L. Elam-Thomas, *Ambassador to Senegal*

Amb. (ret.) Theodore L. Eliot Jr., *Ambassador to Afghanistan*

Amb. (ret.) Nancy Ely-Raphel, *Ambassador to Slovenia*

Amb. (ret.) Chas W. Freeman, Jr., *Assistant Secretary of Defense and Ambassador to Saudi Arabia*

Amb. (ret.) Robert Gallucci, *Ambassador at Large*

Amb. (ret.) Robert S. Gelbard, *President's Special Representative for the Balkans*

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Amb. (ret.) James E. Goodby, *Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Security and Dismantlement, and Ambassador to Finland*

Amb. (ret.) Marc Grossman, *Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and Ambassador to Turkey*

Amb. (ret.) Brandon Grove, *Director Foreign Service Institute*

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Amb. (ret.) Ulric Haynes, Jr. *Ambassador to Algeria*

Amb. (ret.) Donald Hays, *Ambassador to the United Nations*

Amb. (ret.) Heather M. Hodges, *Ambassador to Ecuador and Moldova*

Amb. (ret.) Karl Hofmann, *Ambassador to Togo*

Amb. (ret.) Thomas C. Hubbard, *Ambassador to the Republic of Korea*

Amb. (ret.) Vicki Huddleston, *Ambassador to Mali and Madagascar*

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Amb. (ret.) Richard D. Kauzlarich, *Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Amb. (ret.) Kenton W. Keith, *Ambassador to Qatar*

Amb. (ret.) Roger Kirk, *Ambassador to Romania and Somalia*

Amb. (ret.) John C. Kornblum, *Ambassador to Germany and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs*

Amb. (ret.) Eleni Kounalakis, *Ambassador to Hungary*

Amb. (ret.) Daniel Kurtzer, *Ambassador to Israel and Egypt*

Amb. (ret.) Bruce Laingen, *Chargé d'Affaires in Tehran (1979)*

Frank E. Loy, *Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs*

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Amb. (ret.) Princeton N. Lyman, *Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs*

Amb. (ret.) John F. Maisto, *Ambassador to Organization of American States, Venezuela, Nicaragua*

Amb. (ret.) Jack Matlock, *Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Special Assistant to the President for National Security*

Amb. (ret.) Donald F. McHenry, *United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations*

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Amb. (ret.) William B. Milam, *Ambassador to Pakistan and Bangladesh*

Amb. (ret.) Tom Miller, *Ambassador to Greece and Bosnia-Herzegovina*

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Amb. (ret.) Joan M. Plaisted, *Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Kitibati*

Amb. (ret.) Nicholas Platt, *Ambassador to Pakistan, Philippines, and Zambia*

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Amb. (ret.) Robin L. Raphel, *Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia*

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Amb. (ret.) Julissa Reynoso, *Ambassador to Uruguay*

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Amb. (ret.) Rozanne L. Ridgway, *Assistant Secretary for Europe and Canada and Counselor of the Department*

Amb. (ret.) Peter F. Romero, *Assistant Secretary of State*

Amb. (ret.) Theodore Sedgwick, *Ambassador to Slovakia*

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Amb. (ret.) Melissa Wells, *Ambassador to Estonia, DRC-Congo, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau*

Amb. (ret.) Philip C. Wilcox Junior, *Ambassador at Large for Counter Terrorism*

Molly K. Williamson, *Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Defense, and Commerce*

Amb. (ret.) Frank Wisner, *Ambassador to India, Egypt, the Philippines and Zambia, and Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs*

Amb. (ret.) John Wolf, *Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation*

Amb. (ret.) Kenneth Yalowitz, *Ambassador to Belarus and Georgia*

* All the above signers have retired from the US Government and the positions listed after their names are some of those held while in office.

End

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