

## LETTER: Distrust derails hope of new pact with Iran

JOEL BUTZ Clinton  
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It seems that Mr. Trump is continuing his world tour toward winning the Nobel Peace Prize either outright or by laying a guilt trip on the awarded winner to cede the prize to him. The campaign promises of "no new wars," end "endless wars" and avoid "reckless" foreign entanglements, is one more promise that he has failed to deliver to the American people.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action took two years to negotiate between the U.S., five members of the U.N. Security Council and Iran. The agreement, which went into effect on Jan. 16, 2016, generally gave Iran economic relief by unfreezing their assets if they met certain goals of their nuclear program from being developed into nuclear weapons verified by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Some of the opponents to the deal, explicitly Israel, called it a "historic mistake" because it only delayed Iran from building nuclear weapons and the removal of economic sanctions would allow Iran to underwrite terrorism in the region. Two key platforms from this deal were that Iran agreed to verification of all components of their disarmament of potential nuclear grade uranium and they would lose the release of frozen assets if they failed to comply in any manner.

When Trump had killed Qassem Soleimani in an airstrike on Jan. 3, 2020, the Iranian government announced that it would no longer abide by any operational restraints of the JCPOA and furthered distrust toward the United States and Mr. Trump. Iran had rejected any attempt to return to the negotiating table in President Biden's last few months in office.

Mr. Trump's offer in renegotiating a new pact had many of the same components as the original JCPOA but with the added assurances that Iran stop funding regional militia and proxy groups, i.e. Hezbollah, the Houti's and Hamas, plus end missile development, curb cyber attacks and stop anti-U.S. rhetoric.

With Iran's distrust of Trump and that of any nation that has any alliance with the Israeli state, it's not hard to imagine Iran's response to those demands.

Please understand that I don't believe Iran is a victim of any military action and that they are indeed a major player of violence in the Mideast. But then again, I don't condone unwarranted or misrepresented facts to justify attacking a sovereign nation. Israel itself is not without blame in the unrest in the region. Since the creation of the state of Israel after World War II both the Arab nations and Israel are guilty of breaking negotiated peace treaties.

With the current "incursion" or war, however Mr. Trump wants to state our military action toward Iran, for a region that has been the site of many military conflicts since 1949, putting boots on the ground will only put more American soldiers lives in danger and will not resolve to bring absolute peace to the region. A workable peace treaty will be the best obtainable objective when there is total agreement from all parties involved. That will only happen when there is absolute trust between sworn enemies and that I'm afraid is just unattainable.

JOEL BUTZ

Clinton

