

Biden and Netanyahu Finally Talk, But Their Long 'Failure to Communicate' Means A Great Deal

by Hugh Fitzgerald



Nearly a month into the new administration, [Politico](#), February 17, 2021:

President Joe Biden spoke by phone with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel on Wednesday for the first time since taking office, speaking about Iran and strengthening the U.S.-Israeli relationship, according to both the Israeli and White House readouts of the call.

The Israeli readout made no specific mention of a Palestinian state or a potential two-state solution. Netanyahu has long downplayed the chance of a Palestinian state coming to fruition. The White House readout, however, said Biden

“underscored the importance of working to advance peace throughout the region, including between Israelis and Palestinians.” But the president did not specifically mention a two-state solution.

They apparently didn't discuss Biden's long delay in contacting Netanyahu, but shortly before the call, the US ambassador to Israel under President Barack Obama, Dan Shapiro, explained why he was not at all concerned by the fact that the leaders of the US and Israel had not spoken almost a month into Joe Biden's term. The story of how he attempted to justify Biden's "failure to communicate" is here: "Former US envoy to Israel says timing of Biden phone call 'utterly irrelevant,'" by Lazar Berman, [here](#).

That is what Kochavi was saying; we Israelis will, alone if we have to, make sure Iran never gets the bomb. it's an attitude of determined self-reliance among Israelis that Biden's delay in phoning Netanyahu encourages. Is it so hard for Biden to see the damage he has already inflicted on the alliance?

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