

# The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995

Jerrold Sobel writes in the [Jerusalem Embassy Act](#) of 1995 and the will of the current Congress, President Obama joined the ranks of previous feckless administrations refusing to move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

In all fairness to Obama, from Clinton onward, this law, which unambiguously gives full U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel, has been skirted by presidential order under the guise of [17 distinct findings](#) the Congress found:

- Under international law, a sovereign nation can choose its own capital.
- Since 1950, Jerusalem has been the capital of Israel.
- Jerusalem is the seat of Israel's president, Knesset, and Supreme Court.
- Jerusalem is the spiritual capital of the Jewish people.
- From 1948-1967, Jerusalem was divided, and Jews were denied access to their holy sites.
- In 1967, Jerusalem was united.
- Since 1967, Jerusalem has been open to all religions, allowing each equal access.
- This access has continued and been guaranteed.
- Congress believes that Jerusalem should remain an undivided city.
- In 1992, both the Senate and the House adopted resolution 113, reaffirming sentiment that Jerusalem remain an

undivided city.

- In June 1993, the House sent a letter to Warren Christopher, then secretary of state, to begin the relocation of the embassy.
- In March 1995, the Senate did the same.
- “The United States maintains its embassy in the functioning capital of every country except in the case of our democratic friend and strategic ally, the State of Israel.”
- The United States conducts official meetings in Jerusalem, implying de facto recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.
- “In 1996, the State of Israel will celebrate the 3000th anniversary of the Jewish presence in Jerusalem since King David’s entry.”

What act, what manifesto could be more in tune with the overwhelming sentiment of the Congress and by extension the American people than this one? Yet in face of this, Bill Clinton threatened a veto of the legislation if a proviso wasn’t added allowing for a six-month presidential waiver period. He got his way and immediately jumped on it. Citing national security interests, he exercised essentially a veto other presidents have been using ever since.

When asked what national interests would be threatened by recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, Clinton’s administration responded that it would endanger – get this – the peace process. The peace process? Incredulous, [Ted Cruz](#), introduced the Embassy Act of 2015. Cruz had this to say:

*Almost fifteen years ago Congress passed the Jerusalem*

*Embassy Act of 1995 with overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate. ...It is my hope that members of Congress on both sides of the aisle support this important bill. It is long past due for our government to finally and unequivocally recognize Israel's historical capital both in word and deed.*

How ironic it would be if such official U.S recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital actually created an atmosphere for true peace talks rather than a mere pipe dream?