

December 11, 2017
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about middle east diplomacy. Jerusalem has just been declared the capitol of Israel by the US president. This is a major symbolic act and has already resulted in a number of attacks throughout the world and deaths in and around Israel. Such an outcome was easily predictable. This might make sense as part of a larger strategy with tradeoffs for various players but instead it appears to simply be a vicious, dangerous, spontaneous and arbitrary move on your part. It is also part of a pattern, with the weakened State Department playing little role in diplomacy, while the president offers unpredictable, but broadly one-sided bombshells. In a letter to the NY Times today Iran was laying plausible claim to the moral high ground from which you have dragged the US. China, France and Germany have also been rushing to fill the resulting vacuum.

Please assure me that you will leave diplomacy to diplomats.

I am very proud to be a US citizen and a large part of that derives from our moral world leadership.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson