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March 17, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

I write to express my profound concern regarding reports on the negotiations toward a return to the failed Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA, or “Iran Deal”), particularly at a time when energy security is a crucial global priority.

Iran, a U.S.-designated state sponsor of terrorism, has stated its desire to annihilate Israel. It should be abundantly clear, both from the impetus of the modern state of Israel to the war in Ukraine, we cannot ignore a tyrant’s stated intentions. In fact, the mullahs in Iran have provided plenty of indications that their stated intentions are not bluster. They also have no qualms about attacking key U.S. interests or targets on U.S. soil. For example, according to numerous reports, the Iranian regime is currently plotting to assassinate former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and one of his aides, as well as former National Security Advisor, Ambassador John Bolton. Iran also reportedly attempted to kidnap Voice of America journalist Masih Alinejad from her New York City apartment. Additionally, in 2011, U.S. officials stated that Iran plotted to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States in a Georgetown restaurant.

Iran also has a history of supporting pariah regimes in the Western Hemisphere, including the Maduro regime in Venezuela and the Cuban dictatorship, a fellow U.S.-designated terrorist state. Iran has provided energy, military, and financial support to the Maduro regime, which has in turn provided Iran with its gold reserves. Hezbollah also has significant connections to these regimes as well. Admiral Craig Faller, the commander of the Armed Forces Southern Command, noted to the *Wall Street Journal* in December 2020 the growing Iranian influence in Venezuela, and cited the “alarming and concerning” presence of military personnel from the Quds Force of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (Quds). The Quds force has been responsible for supporting Syrian dictator Assad in Syria, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen, and Hamas.

The parties to these negotiations do not inspire confidence. Russia’s and Communist China’s integral role in these negotiations makes them further suspect. If the mullahs in Iran, the Communist Politburo in China, and war criminal Vladimir Putin all agree that the Iran Deal is a good one, then we must be highly skeptical. I find it unlikely that the interests of all three of

those regimes could possibly align with the noble interests of free, democratic countries who actually value peace.

If these reports are accurate, we have ample reasons to be concerned by the pending Iran Deal. Russia's war on Ukraine has revealed in stark reality how difficult it is for the world to restrain a nuclear power intent on attacking its neighbors. We must not find ourselves in the position of trying to restrain a nuclear Iran bent on terror and destruction.

Thank you for your attention to this matter of utmost importance.

Sincerely,



Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress