

The Obama Administration's Concessions to Iran

“In Their Own Words”

When the Obama Administration and international partners began negotiations with Iran, their goal was clear— Iran would dismantle its illicit nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. As a result of concessions from the Obama Administration and negotiating allies, *the negotiations no longer sought to eliminate Iran's nuclear program*. Instead, the Administration offered to legitimize Iran's nuclear program and remove sanctions in exchange for temporary restrictions on Iran's ability to rush toward a nuclear weapon. These restrictions will expire in as little as ten years—at which point Iran will have an internationally recognized, industrial nuclear program that is capable of quickly producing material for many nuclear weapons. In effect, *President Obama has agreed to dismantle the sanctions regime – permanently. In return, Iran is agreeing to only slow the development of its nuclear program – temporarily.*

Key Concessions

On Dismantling Iran's Nuclear Program

The Demand

“I don't think that any of us thought we were just imposing these sanctions for the sake of imposing them... We did it because we knew that it would hopefully help Iran dismantle its nuclear program. That was the whole point of the [sanctions] regime.” – [Secretary Kerry](#) to the House Foreign Affairs Committee on December 10, 2013

The Concession

“Iran is not going to simply dismantle its program because we demand it to do so...” - [President Obama](#) from the Rose Garden on April 2, 2015.

On Closing Iran's Underground, Fortified Nuclear Facility

The Demand

“We know that they don't need to have an underground, fortified facility like Fordow in order to have a peaceful nuclear program,” - [President Obama](#) at the Brookings Institution on December 7, 2013

The Concession

“Mr. Secretary, you said that Fordow will be stripped down, but the President seemed to promise the American people something much different in December of 2013...he wasn't talking about stripping it down. He was saying either wiping it out or shutting it down altogether. What changed...It's remaining open, though, isn't it?”

“As I said, [Fordow] will be transitioning over time to a research facility involving international collaboration...” – [Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz](#) at a White House press briefing on April 6, 2015



On the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Questions regarding the Possible Military Dimensions (PMD) of Iran's Nuclear Program

The Demand

"We raised these questions regarding the IAEA, Mr. Chairman. And, as I said, they are going to have to be answered." – [Secretary Kerry](#) to the House Foreign Affairs Committee on February 25, 2015

The Concession

"What we're concerned about is going forward." – [Secretary Kerry](#) during a State Department press availability on June 16, 2015

On "Anytime, Anywhere" Inspections

The Demand

"We expect to have anywhere, anytime access." Inspections of Iran's military sites under the proposed long-term agreement wouldn't be "frivolous;" they would be part of "a well-defined process," – [Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz](#) in an interview with Bloomberg on April 20, 2015

The Concession

"On access, in order for us to have a good deal, we have to be satisfied on the access question. I believe that we will be...that is managed access." – [Senior Administration Official](#) in a background briefing from Vienna on July 7, 2015

On Shutting Down Iran's Ballistic Missile Program

The Demand

"So it is true, that in these first six months we have not shut down all of their production of any ballistic missile that could have anything to do with delivery of a nuclear weapon, but that is, indeed, going to be part of something that has to be addressed as part of a comprehensive agreement." – [Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman](#) in Congressional testimony on February 4, 2014

The Concession

"The scope of this agreement, if there is one, is the nuclear program...That's what our partners have agreed to. That is what is being negotiated. It is not a missile agreement." – [Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken](#) to the House Foreign Affairs Committee on March 19, 2015

On U.S. Efforts to Enforce Sanctions on Iran During the Negotiations

The Demand

"...I can tell you that they do so at their own peril right now because we will come down on them like a ton of bricks with respect to the sanctions that we control, and we expect full compliance..." – [President Obama](#) in a Press Conference with President Hollande of France on February 11, 2014

The Concession

"State officials told us that a variety of political concerns, such as international negotiations and relations with countries involved in transfers, can delay State's [Iran, North Korea, Syria Nonproliferation Act sanctions] process." – [U.S. Government Accountability Office \(GAO\)](#) in a May 22, 2015 report

