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For Diplomacy to Work, Iran Must Understand That It Cannot Overplay Its Hand

by [Dennis Ross](#)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Dennis Ross](#)

Dennis Ross, a former special assistant to President Barack Obama, is the counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute.



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Although the Biden administration strongly favors a diplomatic path to ensuring Iran never obtains a nuclear weapon, it needs to show that it will exercise other options if Tehran makes a viable deal impossible.

If there was any doubt that Iran wants and needs sanctions relief, it was removed on April 11. Rather than using what seemed like Israeli sabotage at Natanz as pretext to walk away from the talks in Vienna, the Iranians remain engaged with the British, French, Germans, Russians and Chinese, who are acting as mediators. There was no disruption of the talks. Instead, the two working groups—tasked with negotiating a road map for the United States to lift its nuclear-related sanctions and for Iran to reverse its steps that violate the JCPOA limits—went to work...

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1111 19th Street NW - Suite 500
Washington D.C. 20036
Tel: 202-452-0650
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