



THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DIPLOMACY

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American Academy of Diplomacy

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Press Release

Reduction in Special Envoys

August 30, 2017

The Academy supports the direction taken by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to reduce the numbers of special envoys and to consult publicly about the decision.

Academy President Ronald Neumann said, "This move is overdue. The Academy has long supported a reduction in envoys as noted in our 2015 study *American Diplomacy at Risk* and in our recommendations in 2016 for reform sent to this Administration." (Both are available on the Academy's website www.academyofdiplomacy.org.)

Public discussion should distinguish between the importance of issues and the need for constantly expanded numbers of senior titles to focus on them. Excessive envoy numbers were a clog in rational policy making. The recommendations preserve the staffs and resources needed for the eliminated or merged positions but move them to the offices which will have responsibility for carrying out the policies. This will allow far more rational use of scarce resources and policy execution.

The Academy does not take a position on the individual envoy positions. It does commend the Secretary for the decision to consult publicly with the Congress. We hope similar transparent consultation will govern the larger reorganization plan in September.

The American Academy of Diplomacy is a non-governmental and non-partisan organization of former senior diplomatic practitioners dedicated to improving American diplomacy.

Strengthening American Diplomacy

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