

## **What's in the new Iran deal?**

*Editoriale*

Vice President JD Vance said an agreement to end the Iran war was signed “digitally” on Sunday, and a formal ceremony is scheduled for Friday in Geneva. Asked Monday when he’ll share the text of the deal, President Donald Trump suggested “sometime after Friday.”

If it’s a diplomatic triumph, why conceal it?

The most plausible answer is that the document is vague and little more than an agreement to keep negotiating over thorny issues. Indeed, Vance says the deal only starts the clock on 60 days of “technical negotiations.” It certainly would help the president politically if he could call time on the war and watch oil prices and inflation fall ahead of the midterms.

The reality is that there are more questions than answers. Did the U.S. agree to free up funds to Iran in exchange for opening the Strait of Hormuz, which Tehran effectively closed after the war began in February? That would mean that the United States is making concessions to restore the status quo ante.

Iranian state media claimed that the U.S. agreed to unfreeze at least \$12 billion in assets and suspend sanctions on its oil. The White House insists that “zero” assets are being unfrozen and that any money which gets turned over “requires the Iranians to do some of the things that they’re promising to do.”

Trump himself asserted that the Strait of Hormuz will be imminently reopened, toll-free, in perpetuity, in exchange for the U.S. ending its blockade. Reopening the waterway would give the global economy some relief without fully empowering the weakened Iranian regime.

But it’s not clear whether Iran has agreed to that. Vance [clarified on CNBC](#) that “our expectation is that the strait is going to be opened in a toll-free way for the long-term.”

But he added that more “technical negotiations” are necessary. Whether ships can pass unmolested will become clear soon enough.

Understandably, Trump doesn’t want to be seen giving the regime a cash lifeline without substantial and verified concessions. Money is fungible, and the resources Tehran received during past negotiations enabled the support of terrorists around the region.

Eventually the Iranian nuclear program needs to be dealt with, and no one expects that to happen right away. But will the country get sanctions relief before it takes meaningful steps to denuclearize? What verification mechanisms will exist?

Iran has insisted for decades that it was not developing a nuclear weapon, even as it pursued the bomb. Why would anyone now trust a promise not to pursue a bomb? Will Tehran be allowed to enrich uranium at low levels?

Israelis [do not like](#) what they’re hearing about the deal. The U.S. says Israel will be able to defend itself when attacked, but has the Trump administration agreed to pressure its ally not to hit Hezbollah targets in Lebanon?

The simple solution is to release the text of the agreement immediately. If it’s a good deal for America, Trump is losing control of the narrative for no good reason. If it’s not, the public deserves to know.