

Help Wanted - State Department Seeks Self-Consistent Secretary ... To Replace Tillerson?

By [Moon of Alabama](#)

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[Moon of Alabama](#) 23 October 2017

Region: [USA](#)
Theme: [History](#)

[European business deals with Iran are safe: Tillerson](#) – AFP, **October 20** 2017

Washington (AFP) – **The United States does not intend to disrupt European business deals with Iran, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in comments published Friday.**

...

“The president’s been pretty clear that it’s not his intent to interfere with business deals that the Europeans may have under way with Iran,” Tillerson told The Wall Street Journal. “He’s said it clearly: ‘That’s fine. You guys do what you want to do.’”

[Tillerson Warns Europe Against Iran Investments](#) – NYT, **October 22** 2017

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia —

...

Speaking during a visit to Saudi Arabia, Mr. Tillerson said, “Both of our countries believe that those who conduct business with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, any of their entities — **European companies or other companies around the globe — really do so at great risk.**” Mr. Tillerson appeared at a brief news conference in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, with the Saudi foreign minister, **Adel al-Jubeir**.

...

Mr. Tillerson’s remarks were the administration’s most pointed **warning** to date ...

This not the way to get the European Union in line with U.S. policies. So what is going on here?

Trump is often inconsistent in what he says. That is his privilege. But it does not mean that the Secretary of State has to contradict himself each and every day. It is Tillerson’s task to project a steady foreign policy. If there is none – for whatever reason – he must keep his comments vague. Contradictions like the above make him a joke.

‘Rexxon’ has experience in doing international businesses. He knows that consistency is one of the most important factors in getting things done. No one will make deals with a party that changes its mind every other day.

So why is Tillerson jumping around like this? He seeks to replace Ms. Jubeir as court jester in Riyadh? Or does he want to sabotage his own position?

One inevitably gets the impression that Tillerson wants out. That he wants to chuck his job rather sooner than later. That he longs for the inevitable day he will be fired.

Tillerson is a realist at heart. He is no fan of Netanyahu. He despises the fake human rights blabber others use to hide their motives. The neo-conservatives would love to see him go. Josh Rogin [lists](#) their favorite candidates:

The most popular parlor game in Washington right now is speculating who will replace Rex Tillerson as President Trump's next secretary of state ... two qualified and apparently willing candidates have emerged. ... The top two contenders, Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley and CIA Director Mike Pompeo, ...

Haley is way too loud and [incompetent](#). Pompeo is too narrow minded.

I wonder who the White House [junta](#) will prefer as new Secretary of State. One from its own stable? David Petraeus?

He would be another nail in the coffin of Trump's presidency.

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