

Trump's decision to open Jerusalem embassy complicates promise to seek peace

By Anne GearanThe Washington Post
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WASHINGTON—U.S. President Donald Trump has been telling friendly audiences that he is proudly fulfilling a campaign promise with the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem and that his real estate savvy is already saving the taxpayers a buck on the new location.

A campaign rally crowd gave Trump lengthy applause when he said the new embassy will open Monday and on the cheap.



Demonstrators wave U.S. and Israeli flags in Jerusalem's Old City. For Israelis, Sunday was Jerusalem Day, an annual celebration of the “reunification” of the city following the 1967 Six-Day War. (THOMAS COEX / AFP/GETTY IMAGES)

“I said, ‘How much?’ — Something other presidents don’t ask. They said, ‘Sir, one billion dollars,’” Trump said in theatrical disbelief.

“For \$150,000 I could fix it. It’ll be beautiful,” Trump said at the rally Thursday in Elkhart, Ind.

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The president said nothing about another campaign promise to seek a peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians, or the fact that meeting the first promise has, at least for now, foreclosed a chance for the second.

A [regional peace initiative led by presidential adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner has been shelved](#) because of Palestinian anger over the shift in decades of U.S. policy regarding the embassy, which held that Jerusalem’s disputed status was an issue to be resolved through negotiations.