

With what countries does the United States not currently maintain diplomatic relations?

Relations with Iran were severed on January 3, 1980; the Swiss Government handles United States interests. The United States does not maintain diplomatic relations with Vietnam, Cambodia, North Korea, Albania, and Angola. There are no protecting powers for Vietnam, Cambodia, North Korea, and Albania. In Angola, Italy handles some consular services for the United States, usually on an emergency basis. Additionally, diplomatic relations are not actively maintained with Bhutan and Maldives (i.e., these states do not maintain diplomatic representation in the United States and the United States does not have diplomatic representation there, although Bhutan maintains a Deputy Consul General in New York).

Regarding the Western Hemisphere, relations with Cuba were severed on January 3, 1961; the Swiss Government handles United States interests.

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The United States maintains diplomatic relations with Afganistan, but U.S. nationals at the American Embassy were evacuated in January 1989. Before American personnel were evacuated, the U.S. Embassy did not conduct normal diplomatic relations with the current Kabul regime. Our limited presence there did not imply acceptance of the regime as the lawful government in Afganistan. Similarly, our acting as guarantor of the political settlement does not imply acceptance of the regime.

Although diplomatic relations with Libya have not been formally severed, in 1981 relations with Libya were reduced to "the lowest level consistent with maintenance of diplomatic relations" (Transcript of State Department Special Briefing, May 6, 1981). No diplomatic missions have been maintained since 1981, and protecting powers have been designated (Belgium for the United States; the United Arab Emirates for Libya).

The United States maintains diplomatic relations with the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, although the United States does not presently have representatives in those countries. The United States has never recognized the forcible incorporation of the three states into the Soviet Union in 1940. The United States continues to recognize and accredit diplomatic representatives of the Baltic states. The representatives are Charges d'Affaires for Latvia and Lithuania in Washington and a Consul General in Charge of Legation for Estonia in New York.

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