

# Guatemala, the US and Israel share important values

by Steve Hecht



The U.S. news media don't often cover news about Guatemala, the small Central American nation on Mexico's southern border. As a result, many Americans were surprised to learn that Guatemala recently announced it would move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

Why is Guatemala aligning itself with Israel at a time when most United Nations member states have voted to oppose the move of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and regularly support resolutions hostile to the Jewish state?

Contrary to widespread speculation, Guatemala's support for moving both the U.S. Embassy in Israel and its own embassy there to Jerusalem is not motivated by a desire to curry favor with the Trump administration. Instead, Guatemala is motivated

by its own longstanding ties to Israel and its commitment – shared with Israel – to the principles of liberty and economic development.

The [close relationship](#) between Guatemala and Israel dates to the latter's founding. The 1947 proposal to recognize the state of Israel was presented and lobbied for by Guatemala's ambassador to the United Nations, Jorge García Granados. This led to Israeli statehood, and as a result Israeli street names remember Granados and his country.

Guatemala was the first nation to open an embassy in Jerusalem (later relocated to Tel Aviv) and the second to recognize Israeli statehood, after the United States.

When President Jimmy Carter ended aid to Guatemala during its internal armed conflict with Fidel Castro's communist guerrillas, Israel provided weapons, aircraft and training that helped Guatemala defeat the communists. Israel has also granted scholarships to thousands of Guatemalans and provided technical support for projects in Guatemala.

As George Gilder posits in "[stated](#)" that the United States didn't ask Guatemala to move its embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. The statement is believable, given Guatemala's long-term relations with Israel and no reversal from President Trump or President [CICIG](#)) and the guerrilla successors are leading the charge against Morales. These adversaries work together and have [Fox News](#).

Steve Hecht is editor at large of the