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Improving Egypt-Israel Relations in the Shadow of Gaza

by [David Schenker](#), [Assaf Orion](#) / Sep 24, 2024

Brief Analysis

In addition to addressing each country's concerns about border sovereignty, smuggling, and other irritants, Washington should emphasize the longer-term need to return to the peace treaty's military limitations after the Gaza war.

When Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to Cairo last week to chair the annual U.S.-Egypt Strategic Dialogue, one of his main goals was to advance the stalled ceasefire negotiations between Hamas and Israel. A key sticking point in those talks is the disposition of the Philadelphia Corridor, a narrow portion of the Gaza Strip that runs along the border with Egypt. Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu is loath to depart this corridor because Hamas has often tunneled beneath it to smuggle weapons. Yet Cairo views Israel's continued military presence there as a violation of their peace treaty's security annex. This dispute—coupled with Israeli accusations that Egypt is complicit in Hamas smuggling—has become a serious bilateral irritant, potentially exacerbating other unresolved security issues in the Sinai Peninsula.

[...]

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