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Lying for Diplomacy: Integrity versus Perceived Responsibility

Recently an interview of US Deputy National Security Advisor, Ben Rhodes was published in the New York Times. The lengthy interview was seen by some to be indiscreet and an ill-timed revelation of how the Obama administration had deceived the press and



thus the American people about the outcomes associated with the Iran nuclear negotiations. A Fox News video link here reports on one of the many “variations” from the facts represented by the Obama administration that have come out in association with this story.

The political commentator cited in this video notes that one reality of politics and negotiations is that all governments lie to protect what is perceived to be the larger responsibility to achieve a meaningful goal for the public good. In this case, the lying is cited to be about outcomes to “sell the deal” as opposed to lying in the process to secure the deal. A fine point to be sure if integrity is important, but students are encouraged to discuss when and if integrity should be compromised in international government relations or in interpersonal relations at their school. Defining integrity is a good place to start this discussion. SEE welcomes student comments about their discussion to be posted back on our website at <http://ethicsed.org/ethicsblog>.

SEE’s brief video link to Fox News story-- <https://youtu.be/iVO-okaiyOs>

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