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POLITICS

Trump says a former president had an Iran confession. Aides to his predecessors deny recent contact

1 of 2 | President Donald Trump said he spoke to a predecessor who had expressed regret to him about not attacking Iran when they occupied the Oval Office.

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE AND STEVEN SLOAN

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Twice on Monday, President [Donald Trump](#) said he'd wrangled a confession of sorts from an Oval Office predecessor who he said had expressed regret in a

private conversation about not [attacking Iran the way Trump has been doing](#) for more than two weeks.

But there's just a little problem: Representatives for the four living former presidents — three Democrats and one Republican — said none have been in touch with Trump recently.

Trump declined to name the former president when reporters asked who it was, saying he didn't want to "embarrass him."

The Republican president first told the story during extended remarks about the Iran war as he opened a [meeting of the board of trustees of the Kennedy Center](#). Trump is chairman of the board and held the meeting at the White House.

He repeated that Iran had been a threat to the United States for decades but said he is the only president who had the courage to do something about it.

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"Look, for 47 years, no president was willing to do what I'm doing, and they should have done it a long time ago," he said. "It would have been a lot easier. There's no president that wanted to do it."

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