

# Obama snubs the Waldorf Astoria for his NYC visit amid fears the hotel is bugged by the Chinese, breaking a presidential tradition started when Hoover was in the White House

- Famous hotel was bought by Anbang Insurance Group for \$1.95bn
- Presidents including Hoover and Eisenhower enjoyed long stays there
- Obama reportedly staying at Millennium's ONE UN instead

By [Kate Pickles For Mailonline](#)

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President Obama will not stay at the Waldorf Astoria tonight amid fears the place could be bugged after it was sold to a Chinese company.

The Department of State had traditionally housed US officials at the prestigious hotel ever since Herbert Hoover first stayed there.

But it has changed its policy since Hilton Worldwide announced it was selling the hotel to Anbang Insurance Group for \$1.95 billion last year.

Snub: The President will not stay at the Waldorf Astoria during his visit to New York City

Reports say there are fears the Chinese might set up a bugging system, [Page Six](#) reports.

Famous celebrities who have made the hotel their home have included Frank Sinatra who kept a personal suite at the hotel between 1979 and 1988 for when he was out of Los Angeles, for nearly \$1 million a year.

President Herbert Hoover resided at The Waldorf for more than three decades, and President Dwight Eisenhower stayed from 1967–1969.

Snub: President Obama, pictured here on a previous visit to the Waldorf, will not stay there tonight, breaking a tradition that started with Hoover

Luxurious: The prestigious hotel was sold to Chinese firm Anbang Insurance Group for \$1.95 billion last year

President Eisenhower's is reported to have been terrified of heights, and to accommodate them, a lift was specially designed to open on the 7th floor.

The hotel apparently had an underground railroad which leads from the fourth floor of the basement to Grand Central Terminal, which was used as an entrance for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Obama, who is attending a fund-raiser and a Broadway show during his brief visit, will instead stay at Millennium's ONE UN New York, sources said.

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