

AJC ASKS PRESIDENT NIXON REJECT PRESSURE ARNON BRIEFS OPERATION ISRAEL

NEW YORK--The American Jewish Congress called on President Nixon to reject pressures aimed at forcing Israel to rely on international guarantees instead of defensible borders for her security.

In a telegram to the White House, the Congress warned of "another Munich" if Israel did not have secure boundaries and declared:

"In the Middle East particularly, international pledges to protect the peace have proved not only worthless but dangerously deceptive. Certainly Israel cannot again be called upon to risk destruction because of the promises of government spokesmen. If peace negotiations are to be conducted in earnest, borders ought to be discussed by Israel and Egypt, not by Israel and the U.S."

The telegram was in the form of a statement adopted by the Con-

gress' policy-making and the Sinai without a peace treaty with the Arabs would mean another Munich making more likely a further round of Arab aggression. "Israel has made clear," the American Jewish Congress statement continued, "that it is prepared to enter negotiations for peace without prior conditions and that it is prepared to return to Egypt the vast territory of the Sinai when negotiations are completed for its demilitarization."

"We are dealing with the life and death of human beings," Rabbi Lelyveld declared, "and our concern with Israel's safety is shared by all American Jews." The telegram to the White House stated:

"Present efforts to force Israel to withdraw from defensible positions on the basis of a promise of some future peace agreement by Egypt would render direct negotiations meaningless. Castigating Israel as stubborn or inflexible for its refusal to yield to such pressure threatens efforts to secure a durable peace."

"Any withdrawal by Israel from the canal

presented on a presence at Sharm-el-Sheikh so that the Strait of Tiran will not be closed once more and Israel's opening to the sea thus barred for the third time.

"Secret diplomacy of the State Department during World War II was responsible for concealing Nazi plans to decimate the Jews of Europe and thus helped seal their fate. No pressures from oil interests or from foes of Israel can justify the violation of American commitments to protect the security of Israel."

"We earnestly hope, Mr. President, that you will make clear to the State Department, to the citizens of this country and to the world that America will not violate its commitments and will continue to support the right of Israel to negotiate secure and recognized borders. Our country must not yield to those who would betray the true interests of the U.S. in maintaining peace in the Middle East."

"The mission, led by Herbert J. Garon of New Orleans, observed the human needs and accomplishments of the people of Israel at close range. The group visited kibbutzim along the Beit Shean Valley, saw children's shelters and talked with kibbutz members. On a trip to the frequently beleaguered development town of Kiryat Shmoneh, housing recent immigrants and supported through the UJA, they learned about the social and economic problems of people living in a border community under fire.

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BOSTON (WNS)--The Rabbinical Court of the Associated Synagogues of Massachusetts, which represents all three branches of Judaism, has requested a ruling from the State Attorney General on whether a marriage performed by a rabbi in which one of the partners is non-Jewish is valid in civil law. Such marriages are invalid in Jewish Religious Law (Halacha), a position reaffirmed by the Court.

TEL AVIV (WNS)--Eleven residents of Jenin in Northern Samaria, including a one-year-old baby, were injured by a grenade.

Dr. JACK COPE

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There is no Mobil "boycott." There never was.





The purpose of this message is to deny recent reports—false reports—alleging that Mobil is involved in a worldwide boycott of Jewish products. These reports deeply trouble Mobil employees, dealers, shareholders, business associates, customers, and suppliers. We are taking this opportunity to make it clear that such allegations are erroneous. Here are the facts: Last year, a London-based marine subsidiary of our company that handles the provisioning of part of our foreign-flag fleet sent a letter to ships' suppliers. Several of our vessels had been fined for carrying, as ships' stores, products that could not be imported under the laws of one of the countries where these ships call. So the suppliers were asked to help our ships operate within the law. However, the letter, which was written by an employee who was far below the policy-making level, inadvertently violated Mobil's completely open purchasing policy. The intent of the letter was widely misinterpreted, leading the press to mistakenly report that Mobil was engaged in a worldwide boycott of

Jewish products. This, understandably, gave rise to a number of protests. As soon as our management in New York learned of the letter, we took steps to rectify the situation. As a result, we withdrew all prior instructions to suppliers. We informed them that our purchasing policy provides, as it always did, that *quality, availability, and price are the only criteria for the provisioning of any of our ships.* We notified 24 major American-Jewish organizations of our action through a letter from a member of our management to a representative of the Presidents Conference of those organizations. We have tried in other ways to correct the misstatement of our position. We have held meetings with representatives of leading Jewish organizations. We have called on newspaper editors. We are writing and speaking to everyone who has expressed his concern to us. We at Mobil sincerely regret the misunderstanding caused by the letter from London. We repeat: There is no Mobil boycott. There never was.


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