BLACK AMERICAN LEADERS SUPPORT ISRAEL dental of equal rights

NEW YORK (WUP) freedoms and Leading Black in oppo-Americans, sition to the radical anti-Israeli blacks in the nation, have form-ed a new organiza-tion whose main aim is to support Israel.

Chartered under the name, "Black Americans to Support Israel Committee," the new group was officially announced by the veteran civil rights leader Bayard Rustin at a press conference held at the Carnegie Endowment Fund Building nearby the UN last week. Mr. Rustin, who

directs the Committee (BASIC) and who has the support of some of the country's most distinguished Black distinguished teaders, including A. Philip Randolph, who serves as chairman, stated that "the demovalues that cratic sustained have our struggle in America are also the source of our admiration for Israel and her impressive social achievements. No nation," he added, "is without imperfections. tion." But Israel's are far outweighted by the her freedom of society. democratic Only in Israel, among the nations of the Middie East, are political liberties secure.

"Together with other Americans," Rustin emphasized, "we enthusiastically join in reaffirming the rights of Israel to exist as a sovereign state."

Over 100 blacks have leading already joined the Committee, including civil rights leaders, athletes, en-tertainers, clergyclergymen, government officials, educators, and businessmen. Among those who have joined BASIC are Tom Bradley, Mayor of Los Tom Angeles, Congress-Barbara woman Jordan; Hank Aaron; Arthur Ashe: author Ralph Ellison; Urban League Director Ver-non E. Jordan, Jr.; Congressman Charles Rangel, NAACP tive Director Executive Director Roy Wilkins, and Congressman Andrew and

Young. The statement of principles of BASIC declares: "We Black BASIC Americans have been guided throughout our long struggle for racial equality by cerfundamental tain principles. These include: a commitment to democracy; opposition to all forms of racial, religious and sexual discrimination. and the conviction that

to any minority threat-ens not only every other minority but democracy itself.
"These principles

have led us to the following conclusions concerning Israeli-Arab conflict and its bearing on American society: We condemn the anti-Jewish blacklist, we believe blacks and believe Jews have common interests in democracy and justice, we support democratic Israel's right to exist. Arab oil politics have had disastrous effects upon blacks in America and Africa; we support peace through mutual we suprecognition, genuine Palesport rinian self-deterbut not at mination. the command of economic blackmailers or of the PLO terro-

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rists who would force their own 'solution' at the point of a gun.

Mr. Rustin, in his statement, made it emphatic that BASIC emphatic that BASIC will counter false propaganda about the State of Israel and exchange encourage visits between young blacks and blacks and young Israelis. He further noted that the new

organization will be "doing whatever it can with our friends in Africa to restore relations bebetter tween Israel Africa."

BASIC plans Publish literature about he State of emphasizing the Israel its importance for the future of democracy in the Middle East and to this end it

is establishing speakers bureau to speak to black combureau to organizations munity of Israel.

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