

**WASHINGTON DATELINE**

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**Carter Answers Questions**

Jimmy Carter broke new ground last week in support of strong anti-boycott legislation, in opposition to the sale of U.S. missiles to Saudi Arabia and for enforcement of the Jackson Amendment in the struggle for Soviet Jewry.

In a preview of the views he expressed on these issues in his foreign policy debate with President Ford on October 6th, Carter went further than he has ever gone before in answering questions posed by leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, following an address to the Jewish leaders in Boston.

Here are the highlights of the question-and-answer session:

Eugene Gold, chairman, National Conference on Soviet Jewry: I know your commitment to human rights. Those of us who have been involved for many years in the struggle on behalf of Soviet Jews bear with a heavy heart the occurrences of recent days. Soviet Jews continue to be oppressed and imprisoned for the simple reason that they are Jews who wish to live as Jews. It has come to my attention that you have sent a letter to Senator Jackson which speaks to the issue of free immigration and your commitment to the law of the land dealing with the linkage of human rights and trade. I wonder whether you would like to expand on the letter you sent to Senator Jackson.

A. Jimmy Carter: I pointed out in the letter to Senator Jackson, and authorized him to use it, that I would do everything I possibly can as President, in every diplomatic exchange, both private and public; in the renegotiation or re-assessment of the Helsinki Agreement that is going to be held in 1977; and in the enforcement of the Jackson - Vanik Amendment to the trade bill -- to encourage and to use diplomatic and economic means to force the Soviet Union to increase Jewish out-migration.

Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, president, American Section, World Zionist Organization; Governor Carter, one of the most difficult of problems in the Middle East deals with the Palestinians. Unfortunately, instead of it being treated as a human problem, it has become a political issue. Do you have any ideas or thoughts on how this issue should be resolved?

A. Jimmy Carter: I don't believe anybody has an answer to the Palestinian problem in its entirety. I think the legitimate needs of the

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Palestinians must be met. I think the world should know, and I think the President of the United States and the Secretary of State of the future can explain, that the Palestinian problem did not originate because of Israel, that this is a longstanding problem whose complexity has been created to a substantial degree by the nations who surround it and who now blame the Palestinian problem on Israel itself.

I don't want to try to describe to you a complete settlement of the Middle East question. I think one of the proposals put forward, which I discussed with Mrs. Meir and Mr. Rabin and Mr. P. Alon and others, is the possibility that the Palestinians may be relocated in an area to be defined in the future, perhaps on part of the West Bank of the Jordan River, or to be under the aegis or sovereignty of Jordan itself.

Arthur Levine, President, United Synagogue; Mr. Governor, you articulated, during your debates, your energy program as you would prescribe it for America. The bulk of that program is somewhat long - range in nature, which leads me to a two - part question. One, what would be your immediate program -- your first 100 days, as it were -- to reduce oil imports that you indicated are now at 44 per cent? Two, would your comments concerning your reaction to a threatened embargo -- namely, the trade-off of all American trade, aid, etc. -- would that also apply in the case of a threat of not an embargo but a crisis reached which would have severe economic consequences in this country?

A. Jimmy Carter: The immediate thing that ought to be done is to have a comprehensive energy policy and to let our people start planning now on how to consummate that policy. We need to shift from oil to coal, and undertake major research and development in the utilization of coal, preferably in the Appalachian region, on how to burn coal to make electricity with a minimum of adverse affect to our environment.

We need to have strict conservation measures which, so far, this Administration has circumvented. The Congress passes strict laws on conservation; Ford subordinates immediately work it out with the special interest groups on ways to circumvent the problems of the law.

We need to shift for research and development in solar energy, continue to use atomic power as a last resort, but in safety. I worked for Admiral Rickover and I think I know the limitations and capabilities and the safety requirements that are not now maintained in the nuclear energy field. But obviously, the most immediate thing that could be done is strict conservation -- cut down on consumption and cut

down on the importation of oil, I have already described my position on embargo. I would not declare an economic embargo against a nation if it seeks to raise the price of oil.

Bernice Tamenbaum, president, Hadassah: There is generally agreed upon concept that Israel's borders must be defensible and administerable. The present Administration seems to be continually leaning towards Israel's withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders. If you are President, will be there an imposed settlement based upon a similar concept -- a return to the pre-1967 borders -- or will there really be meaningful and free negotiations?

A. Jimmy Carter: I would refer back to United Nations Resolution 242. Any withdrawal ought to be commensurate with advantages to be derived by Israel. If I were the Premier of Israel I would not relinquish control to the Syrians of the Golan Heights, and I would never relinquish control in the City of Jerusalem of the Jewish and Christian holy places. Other caveats might be prescribed as time goes on, but I would never envision a complete withdrawal by Israel to the boundaries that existed prior to the 1967 confrontation with their enemies. (Jimmy Carter's conclusion was especially noteworthy.) Let me say one important thing. I don't claim to know all the answers. I've been to Israel, I've been with the leaders of that great country; I've met with hundreds of groups of Jewish American citizens. I have talked some, have listened more. I have tried to study. I believe that I will be the President. I want to maintain a close relationship with you. I share your concerns. And I want to be sure that when I am President we carry out the promises I made to you and the principals that I have described to you about domestic and international human rights.

These are unequivocal commitment of mine. And I believe we share the commitments to unswerving loyalty to our own country and what it stands for; to the concepts of simple justice, humanity and brotherhood, individuality and freedom; and to the right to be different and take whatever talent and ability that God gives us and use it to the utmost.

I hope that I might have your support and your confidence. I'll do my best never to betray that trust. Thank you.

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